VALLEY VOICE

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Lemon Cove Gravel Mines: A Draining History

Catherine Doe

This is part three of an ongoing series about CEMEX, water and wells going dry in Lemon Cove. The next article in the series will feature the arguments surrounding the construction of the McKay's Point Reservoir.

The following is a letter to the Tulare County Planning Commission dated February 8, 1970 concerning Kaweah River Rock Mining Company.

Sirs,

This information has to do with the water level at my ranch near the proposed Pacific Coast Aggregate plant

I have been on my ranch since 1932. Since that time a centrifugal pump has been used for pumping water. The pump sat in an eight ft. pit, with water level being 3 feet below pump. Approx. 5 yrs ago a small rock plant was put in operation approx ¼ mile from my well. Out of their pit they pump approx 1,200 gals per min. back into the river channel. Since this plant began operation the water level has dropped approx. 8ft. to 10ft. where I was pumping approx 160 gals per min. before, I now only pump about 65 gals per min.

Yours Truly, Harold Ragle

Harold Ragle has since passed away but the problem hasn't. This wasn't the first documentation, nor would it be the last, about how gravel mining in the Kaweah River basin has adversely affected the underground aquifer.

Starting in the 1960s, John Dofflemyer engaged in a 13-year fight with the county over Artesia, a gravel mining company along Dry Creek that ended up going broke and leaving town. According to Dofflemyer, the Artesia mine was continually out of compliance and the county refused to do anything about it. Among the many infractions were: They didn't honor the setbacks and mined too close to his property; they dumped water from the gravel mine back into Dry Creek. But worst, the mine lowered Dofflemyer's wells. He used a little centrifugal pump that produced 35 gallons a minute. After Artesia

Local farmers — such as George Clausen, pictured — want to know, why, if their wells are going dry because of the drought, the CEMEX ponds are brimming full of water

CEMEX continued on **10 »**

Elderwood Heights Decision Delayed Again

Steve Pastis

Only three members of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors attended their July 29th meeting, so the decision was made to delay a vote on the proposed Elderwood Heights development until their August 12th meeting in Tulare.

The full board was in attendance at the August 12th meeting, where they decided to continue the matter until their September 23rd meeting. Neither the developers nor the area residents opposed to the project were happy about the latest continuance, which was announced by Supervisor Phil Cox before the board heard public comment on the issue, and before the vote to continue was taken.

Elderwood Heights is a proposed 162-home development that would be built just west of the City of Woodlake on land that is currently being farmed. Some project opponents had the opinion that its developers requested the latest delay.

"What this tells me is that the project proposer is going to lose this vote," said an angry Craig Breon, the attorney for Citizens Against Elderwood Heights

ELDERWOOD continued on **8 »**

Contract Negotiations Ongoing for Tulare County's Bargaining Unit 2

Catherine Doe

Not all Tulare County rank-and-file employees got a signed contract at the end of negotiations July 21. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Bargaining Unit 2, comprised of more than 200 county maintenance, construction and custodial staff, is still working without a contract.

SEIU union employee casting her vote on the employee contract negotiated in July.

SEIU bargaining units 1, 3, 6 and 7 just finished five months of negotiations that concluded with a one-year contract at a 3% raise.

Employee negotiators Lena Case, Greg Gomez and Tina Thiltgien sat down with county representatives and their lawyer, Shelline Bennett, August 18. Instead of asking for a raise, the employees asked for a onetime bonus of $1,200. In a reoccurring theme, the county countered with a 0% raise and no bonus.

The county's reason? The drought.

Wells are going dry and farmers are fallowing fields but that is mostly going to affect Tulare County's budget next year. Last year, Tulare County was on a financial upswing as evidenced by the county's total gross agricultural production of $7.8 billion, an increase of 26%, making us number one in the nation in agriculture. In fact, revenues were up in almost all financial departments. The employees are cognizant of the fact that the county feels uncertain about the economy's future and that the county doesn't want to sign long contracts with raises. That is one of the reasons why the union employee negotiators asked for a onetime bonus.

Bargaining Unit 2's next strategizing meeting will be today, where they will decide how they plan on moving forward. Their meeting will follow Virginia Gurrola's 4:30pm campaign headquarters' ribbon-cutting.

EMPLOYEES continued on **4 »**

Tulare County Works to Provide Safe Drinking Water to Seville

Nancy Vigran

For the thirsty community of Seville, its water woes should soon be over. For several years, the community's well and pump have had problems keeping up with the demands of local residents for water quantity, as well as water quality.

Although the county wasn't looking to get into the water business, the needs of its small communities have necessitated that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors step in and help. With no clearly defined owner of the aging Seville water system, the State Water Resources Control Board requested the county's assistance, said Tulare County Supervisor Steve Worthley, whose district includes Seville.

"This actually works out to the advantage of the people there," Worthley said.

Privately owned water systems normally could not qualify for grant funds, he explained. But, with the county working as a trustee for the Seville system, funds have been made available and many allocations made.

A new water well in Seville is under construction.

Water Quality

Several weeks ago, the 500 residents of Seville were started on a bottled-water program for cooking and drinking water through the California Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, to provide temporary relief. The water there is too high in nitrates due to the long-term use of the surrounding land for agriculture, said Eric Coyne, spokesman for the Tulare County Resource Management Agency.

County officials, looking for long-term solutions, were able to secure state funding for a water vending machine. Through a reverse-osmosis system, water will be cleansed and available at the machine site. Each Seville residence will be provided a card to use at the machine, where they can fill up bottles for their drinking and cooking needs.

Water Quantity

In recent years, conditions also deteriorated for water quantity in Seville. Low pressure from the existing well and tank due to the lower-water table, compounded with the fact that the old system is lineated, left many residents in the community without enough water to shower, or even flush the toilet. The lineated system means that those further down the line have less water than those closer to the well.

The solution of an additional larger water tank, which would provide more pressure, along with water being brought in by tanker, was being looked into. The water tank was ordered, but delayed. As county officials continued to review the situation, it was determined that it was actually more cost-effective to drill a new well.

"It made more sense to put in another well, than to haul in water," Worthley said.

With most drilling rigs backed up,

SEVILLE continued on **11 »**

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

The Operative Word

I graduated from Berkeley with a degree in Peace and Conflict Studies. But this does not make me a pacifist. Some wars need fighting, I'm afraid, and some people need killing--even though it strains my humanity to utter it aloud. The second Iraq War--for instance--was a four-star clusterf**k, while we should have gone hammer and tongs into Afghanistan. Osama Bin Laden needed killing--even if it was accomplished four months short of a decade after the terrible events of September, 2001.

Still, there are other people who need killing. Not capture and detention: death. And not by the United States military. Too often the world at large has its cake with us--and eats it, too. We are condemned, by turns, for intervening--or not--every time there is a crisis. It is time, right now, for the whole world--collectively--to act.

Or do you suppose as a goal we should establish a Guantanamo-esque camp somewhere inside Iraq to contain the fiends of the Islamic State, formerly known as ISIS? How about rounding up Boko Haram and jailing them somewhere in Nigeria? Sadly, there will first always have to be a hell of a fight. Because these people will brook no argument--they are extremists, remember, terrorists and jihadists--I say: Let the world collectively grant them their jihad. The current round of airstrikes against the Islamic State is a good first step. But the world should put troops on the ground in the Levant and Nigeria--indeed everywhere extremists wantonly execute or abduct innocents--because airstrikes against the aggressors and humanitarian aid for the victims and the nobly expressed opprobrium of the world at large are never enough to stop jihadists.

Ideally, the world should always come together to alleviate suffering and defuse tensions. It should have in the Balkans, in Darfur, in Rwanda--the list is almost endless. Now is our chance--collectively--to correct this where in past situations we have sometimes been remiss. During the Korean War, South Korea welcomed as allies a United Nations peace keeping contingent comprising: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Phillippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, Britain, and the United States. But forty years later, it required a Coalition of the Willing--a phrase used to denote an alliance that does not fall under the United Nations' aegis--to liberate Kuwait from Saddam Hussein. Twenty-four countries--Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Niger, Oman, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Syria and the United Arab Emirates--joined the United States in the largest military alliance since the Second World War.

We need more coalitions of the willing--many more; in fact, a coalition for each crisis--because the United Nations, with its internal politics and the stopping-power by veto of any action by any of the five permanent security council nations, is not always capable of effective intervention. It is true that on the Korean peninsula it achieved a stalemate--but, in addition to North Korea, it was also going up against that country's allies, China and the Soviet Union. In the first Gulf War, the large coalition soundly defeated a friendless Iraq.

But we are not even talking about nations here. The likes of Boko Haram and the Islamic State are intra-national, even if "their" territory overlaps accepted international borders. So--sorry, Islamic State: you are not a caliphate, no matter what you've declared. Muslims the world over--not least the Sunni-- are not attuned to every utterance of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Don't know who he is? I rest my case.

He is, of course, the leader of the Islamic State.

Coalitions of the willing would prove vital, I think--if they could be organized in a timely enough fashion--in preventing the long downward spiral of violence we see playing out over our television screens each evening. How long could Boko Haram endure unmolested? Or the Islamic State? What if there were mechanisms in place by which coalitions could be quickly ranged against such jihadists? Let's put the latter of the two, the Islamic State, into perspective. Estimates of their fighting strength tally between 7,000 and 20,000 combatants, with up to 6,000 in Iraq complimented by 3,000 to 5,000 in Syria.

So we have a jihadi/terrorist group desperate for jihad but settling instead for terror. Again, I say: Let's collectively accommodate them.

It's not as though we, here at home, are not in a state of permanent readiness. Forget the military/industrial complex, and the budgetary portion our armed forces claim--our citizens are armed to the teeth, while our local police forces regularly deploy in full military regalia. Yes--I used "regalia" incorrectly: That's to emphasize the ridiculousness of it all. Picture Sergeant Joe Friday, asking just for the facts--only in body armor, a helmet, and holding an assault rifle.

The militarization of our local police forces is terrifying. Some Peace Dividend! We seem now awfully willing sometimes to coalesce in terrorizing our citizens. But the homefront is not where we need such coalitions of over-zealous police, willing to bring heavy vehicles and storm tactics to their efforts. Don't get me wrong: I'm glad the federal government has granted local police forces equipment it is good to have if needed. The latter is the operative word here.

— Joseph Oldenbourg

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Published by The Valley Voice, LLC.
Publisher/Editor: Joseph Oldenbourg
joseph@ourvalleyvoice.com
Associate Editor/Sales: Steve Pastis (steve@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Staff:
Catherine Doe, writer (catherine@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Tony Maldonado, webmaster (tony@ourvalleyvoice.com)
April Heath Pastis, writer (april@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Louie Luna, sales (louie@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Nancy Vigran, sales (nancy@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Contact us & share your opinion
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208 W. Main St., Ste. E • Visalia, CA 93291

Political Fix

Catherine Doe

Virginia Gurrola Starts Off Running

The official campaign season doesn't start until after Labor Day, but Virginia Gurrola, candidate for Tulare County Supervisor in the 5th District, has already assembled her team and fixed up her campaign office. Her headquarters are at 238 Main St. in Porterville, and the official ribbon cutting is today at 4:30pm.

Virginia's husband, Sal Gurrola, is her campaign manager and two supporters are her advisors, Ruben Macareno and Martha Flores.

Mr. Macareno, chairman of the Tulare County Democratic Party, was a former candidate for the state assembly. Ms. Flores is a Porterville resident who threw her hat in the ring for Porterville City Council when they had to find a replacement for the late Pete McCracken. The city council picked Monte Reyes as their new member out of a list of 16 applicants.

Ms. Gurrola's campaign slogan is: "Water, Jobs, Leadership," and she has already been pounding the pavement visiting residents whose wells have gone dry.

Outside groups are also starting to get ready for the November election. The SEIU had their first campaign strategizing session mid-August. A final game plan will be decided at their next meeting, September 2nd, but right now it looks like a lot of door-knocking and phone-banking. According to Ty Inman, an employee negotiator, SEIU endorsed Ms. Gurrola months before the June primary. When the final vote count put Supervisor Mike Ennis just under the needed 50% for an automatic win, Mr. Inman said, "We were very happy and excited that she pulled out a victory."

Ms. Gurrola has not billed herself as pro-labor, but the SEIU feels that after this year's agonizing negotiations, anyone would be an improvement over the current board. According to Joanne Salazar, a SEIU organizer, "Virginia Gurrola knows the challenges facing residents living in the Central Valley."

Mr. Ennis, who came within 21 votes of avoiding this runoff, has a fight on his hands. Would the outcome have been different if he had gotten back to me last March when we wanted to profile him? That's something Mr. Ennis can contemplate while back on the campaign trail.

Something Interesting About the New Water Bond

Driven by sheer embarrassment, California State legislators finally voted on a water bond to put on November's ballot. An $11.1 billion water bond, with which the Republicans were satisfied, was already on the ballot. But it was negotiated five years ago, filled with pork, and polled unfavorably because it was too expensive. Instead, voters will see a $7.5 billion compromise water bond that contains significantly less money than the Democrats had wanted for Delta restoration and a little less funding than the Republicans had wanted for storage.

Here is the story behind the story.

State legislators had to do some pretty fancy footwork to get a winnable water bond on the November ballot. First, they had to convince the secretary of state to delay printing the voter guides for two days. Then they decided to rename the ballot measure so it would have a better chance of winning. The old bond used to be called Proposition 43. Well, 43 is a weird number and it would have been way down the ballot. Now, the winnable bond has a new catchy name, Proposition 1, and it is at the top of the ballot. Let's see, what famous proposition does that remind you of? Perhaps HSR?

But there is a method to their madness. In 2006, legislators strategically put Propositions 1A through 1E on the ballot and the $36 billion package was approved by voters. The symbol of the package was more powerful than any one bond measure in it. In fact, some believe that the weaker propositions were boosted by their more popular ballot siblings. Polls show a bare minimum of support for the new water bond. So our legislators in Sacramento are coupling it with a proposition that polls incredibly well, the proposition that creates a bigger and stronger budget reserve fund, also known as the rainy day fund. What is the name of this popular measure? Proposition 2.

So all voters have been put on notice, by the implementers of political tricks, that if they approve of Proposition 2, well, then they really should also vote for Proposition 1. Right?

According to the AP, "While California lawmakers were nearly unanimous in their approval of a $7.5 billion water spending plan to go before voters in November, two lawmakers cast votes against it Wednesday night."

Three guesses who cast one of the no votes. Yes, it was Mary, Mary quite contrary Tim Donnelly. His reasons? Not completely discernable.

The other no vote came from Democratic Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro of Arcata. His reason, according to the AP, was that "the Trinity River in his North Coast district will be diverted to fill reservoirs without $1 million in protections he had sought to include in the bond."

Finally, Republicans were happy leaving the original $11.1 billion water bond on the November ballot--so it would seem a role reversal that the Republicans endorsed the expensive pork-filled bond and that Democrats and Gov. Jerry Brown endorsed a more conservative $6 billion dollar water bond.

But it's not a role reversal.

It was the Republicans who got us involved in a $1 trillion war. It was the Reagan Republicans who blew up the budget in the 1980's, to be fixed by president Clinton in the 1990's, and it is the Republicans who continually vote for billion-dollar weapon systems the Pentagon has told them are obsolete and that they no longer want.

So everyone needs to toast Governor Jerry Brown for forcing the Republican legislators to cut the water bond by $3.6 billion so he can then put it towards his $25 billion Bay Delta water tunnels and his $68 billion kind-of-fast train.

L.A. Considers Using Prizes To Lure Voters to the Ballot Box

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, "alarmed that fewer than one-fourth of voters are showing up for municipal elections, the Los Angeles Ethics Commission voted Thursday to recommend that the L.A. City Council look at using cash prizes to lure a greater number of people to the polls." The commission wanted to "seriously consider the use of financial incentives and a random drawing during its elections, possibly as soon as next year."

"Maybe it's $25,000 maybe it's $50,000," said Commission President Nathan Hochman. "That's where the pilot program comes in -- to figure out what ... number and amount of prizes would actually get people to the voting box."

Los Angeles has the same problem that Visalia used to have. They conduct their local elections on odd years. Only 23% of registered voters cast ballots in Los Angeles' mayoral election, which is a good turnout compared to Visalia's 17% in the 2013 election for city council. Visalia has since changed to even-year city council elections.

Moving their elections to even-numbered years could take a long time because the situation is more complicated in Los Angeles. Still, the city shouldn't have to wait until the end of the decade to at least try and improve voter participation. Conducting a lottery to lure people to the ballot box might hit some legal snags, though. One problem is that California law prohibits people from using money or gifts to ensure that voters cast ballots for any particular person or measure. Federal law also prohibits people from accepting payment in exchange for voting, but that statute may not apply in an election where there are no federal positions on the ballot.

One of the comments left on the *L.A. Times* website was, "Idiocracy at work. Do you really want those types of lazy ignorant people voting just so they might win the lottery? Maybe they could give out six packs of beer or cigarettes so people come out to vote." Or maybe Tulare County could loan them Sheriff Mike Boudreaux or Dave Whaley and they can go to L.A.'s polling place and hold a gun raffle.

Mother Knows Best

In a primary election for the 37th Senate District of Northern Michigan, Rep. Wayne Schmidt faced fellow Republican Rep. Greg MacMaster. It was an average primary that was sometimes described as a bitter battle between the two Republicans.

That might have been in part because Rep. MacMaster's mom, who is not a political figure or involved in government, endorsed his opponent.

According to the AP, "MacMaster's mother, Michele, told the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* that Schmidt is 'the better candidate,' citing his background and community activities. She declined to discuss her relationship with her son."

"It's unfortunate some people choose to take politics to a personal level. For voters, politics should be about my positions, the votes I have taken, my conservative values," Rep. MacMaster said. It's hard to understand how Ms. MacMaster would even know her son's politics or community activities because he hasn't spoken to her in 21 years. The rift happened when she left him to live with his alcoholic father as a boy.

Sounds like Ms. MacMaster may have a case of toxic aging. Parental rejection of adult children is not as rare as people think. Because many children who are rejected or tormented by ornery, elderly parents keep it to themselves, this is an under-reported facet of middle-age. Another under-reported phenomenon is toxic ager. Some parents' late life rejection and difficult behavior result from this toxic aging syndrome.

Not a lot of information addresses the problems faced by estranged adult children and little of it applies to children with supremely difficult parents.

In a statement, Rep. Schmidt thanked Ms. MacMaster for her support.

Neel Kashkari Sets 5 Debate Dates--With Himself

According to Josh Richman from Political Blotter, "Kashkari earlier Monday had issued a news release announcing he now has accepted five debate invitations – with the *Sacramento Bee*/ Capitol Public Radio/KCRA; KGTV and KPBS in San Diego; Univision; KSEE and KGPE in Fresno; and KFBK in Sacramento – while Gov. Jerry Brown has not yet responded."

For months, Republican gubernatorial candidate Neel Kashkari has been practically stalking the Governor like a dissed girlfriend while Gov. Brown barely acknowledges his existence.

"Governor Jerry Brown is hiding under his desk," Mr. Kashkari said in the news release. "Every voter in our state deserves to know exactly what Jerry Brown plans to do if he's elected to an unprecedented fourth term."

Of course the public deserves to know, but we don't care. Governor Brown is going to be elected and there isn't enough political light between the two of them to get our knickers in a twist. Dan Newman, a consultant to Gov. Brown's campaign, replied later Monday that, "we'll respond with plenty of time – it's early August and he's got a demanding day job that is the top priority."

Former San Francisco Mayor and former Speaker of the House Willie Brown thinks that Mr. Kashkari should just skip right over Gov. Brown and debate Attorney General Gavin Newsom. That makes an amazing amount of sense since Mr. Kashkari might be facing Mr. Newsom in four years anyway. They might as well get some practice rounds in early.

"And besides," said Mr. Brown, "Gavin needs something to do."

Next deadline:
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Farm Credit West Awards $51,000 in College Scholarships

Staff Reports

Farm Credit West announced the 34 winners in its 2014 Scholarship Program, all sons and daughters of Farm Credit West customers.

Local first-time winners of $1,500 included:

• Garrison Fernandes of Tipton is an active FFA member and athlete. He received numerous honors and awards such as honor roll, State FFA Degree and 2013 Boys State candidate. Garrison plans to attend Cal Poly, SLO and major in bio resources ag engineering.

• Foster Hengst of Woodlake is a sixth generation farmer on his family farm. He has held leadership roles as FFA chapter vice president and light house club president, participating in numerous FFA contests, and participating in four high school musicals. He was also a Boys State candidate. Hengst plans to attend College of Sequoias and major in plant science.

• Hattie Jameson of Visalia is an active member of FFA, holding leadership positions at the chapter, section and region levels. Her goal is to become an agriculture teacher and touch the lives of her students in the same way her agriculture teacher did for her.Hattie plans to attend Cal Poly, SLO and major in agriculture science.

• Emma Larson of Hanford is active in FFA, varsity volleyball, senior class officer and volunteer work. Her career goal is to be working in Sacramento as a lobbyist, whose main priority is being an advocate for agriculture. Larson plans to attend Cal Poly, SLO and major in agricultural communications.

The following local students were awarded with a scholarship renewal in the amount of $1,500 for the 2014-15 collegiate school year: Aaron Brown, Hanford; Kristen Droogh, Lemoore; Austin Fernandes, Tulare; Lauren Friend, Tulare; Alyssa Galhano, Visalia; Mazie Jameson, Visalia; Thomas Larson, Hanford; Cole Martin, Tulare; Theresa Sweeney, Visalia; Erin VanGrouw, Visalia; and Madeline Wisecarver, Hanford.

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Arcadis U.S. to Oversee Next Phase of High-Speed Rail Construction

Staff Reports

The California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors announced last week that Arcadis U.S., Inc., was awarded the project and construction management contract for Construction Package 2-3 (CP 2-3), which will extend more than 60 miles from East American Avenue in Fresno south to approximately one mile north of the Tulare-Kern County line. The route is expected to bring thousands of jobs to the Central Valley, provide environmental benefits and relieve roadway congestion.

Arcadis was selected after months of interviews and reviews of qualifications during a competitive bidding process among five firms. The purpose of the contract is to provide design and construction oversight for CP 2-3 to minimize construction risks and ensure Californians delivery of a high-speed rail system meets the mandates of Proposition 1A.

"Awarding the project and construction management contract is another significant step forward for this program," said Authority CEO Jeff Morales. "Partnering with Arcadis will help provide California with a high-speed rail system worthy of our state. Their experience, expertise and employment opportunities will be a tremendous asset to the high-speed rail program and the Central Valley."

As an additional layer of project oversight, Arcadis will work with the Authority and the design build contractor (to be selected) to identify, manage and mitigate project risks and make sure technical and contract requirements, including costs, are met for CP 2-3. Specific duties include oversight of inspection and testing of the high-speed train infrastructure, technical and environmental compliance including hazmat oversight, utility relocation, construction safety and public outreach. Under the agreed-upon contract, Arcadis could receive up to $71.86 million based on actual work performed over a period of approximately five years.

Arcadis, and its parent company, Arcadis NV, are considered industry leaders in construction management, design and consulting.

Some of their past projects include the Germany Ebensfeld-Erfurt High-Speed Rail, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority's Metro Regional Connector Transit Corridor, the Port of Long Beach's Middle Harbor Phase 1 Construction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hurricane Katrina Levee Reconstruction and the Chicago Transit Authority's Wilson Transfer Station Reconstruction.

Arcadis U.S. Inc. is headquartered in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, but will open an office in the Central Valley.

Arcadis meets the Authority's 30% goal for small business participation, with a commitment of 30.5%. In addition, the company surpasses the Authority's 10% disadvantaged business enterprise and 3% disadvantaged veteran business enterprise goals; reaching a 15.6% and a 4.8 percent commitment, respectively.

Employees

Continued from p. 1

The next contract negotiations with the county will be Monday, August 25, when the employees will make another proposal based on what they decide tonight.

Last year, the county offered Bargaining Unit 2 a 3% raise but refused to give a raise to any of the other rank-and-file employees. Why did the county not offer all employees the same thing?

"That's a very good question." said Joanne Salazar, an SEIU organizer. Bargaining Unit 2 was not represented by a union last year, just like management, who also received a raise. In May of this year, Bargaining Unit 2 joined SEIU Local 521 and is now represented with all the other bargaining units.

In next year's negotiations, for matters of efficiency, SEIU wants all units combined when negotiating for a new contract. Even though it will save the taxpayer money, the county has expressed an interest in keeping them at separate negotiating tables.

During the recession and its aftermath, the board of supervisors successfully pulled Tulare County through a very difficult economic time. When many counties were operating in the red, the board of supervisors kept this county in the black. But when the board of supervisors gave raises to management, and themselves, the county employees felt like the BOS pulled Tulare County through the recession on the backs of the rank-and-file worker.

Governor Brown Signs Legislation to Put Water Bond Before Voters

Staff Reports

After a marathon political process in Sacramento, a decision was finally made to address the state's water needs. State legislators agreed last week on which of the many proposed water bond measures would be considered by California voters in November.

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed legislation last Wednesday to put a comprehensive $7.5 billion water bond before voters that includes $2.7 billion for new water storage, including water storage facilities in the Central Valley. The bond would also provide more than $520 million in critically needed drinking and wastewater treatment projects for communities that cannot currently drink from their own taps.

"Water is the lifeblood of any civilization and for California it's the precondition of healthy rivers, valleys, farms and a strong economy," said Brown. "With this water bond, legislators from both parties have affirmed their faith in California's future."

Assembly Republican Leader Connie Conway, of Tulare, also announced her support for the new ballot initiative.

"I am pleased that the legislature today was able to come together and reach an agreement to place an alternative water bond before the voters this November," she said. "Today's vote comes after nearly a decade of complex and often-difficult negotiations among many different stakeholders. I want to commend all the different parties for their hard work in reaching consensus on a water bond.

"Throughout the process, Republicans made it clear that the most important component of any water bond proposal must be storage," she continued. "We successfully fought back against efforts to short-change funding for critical water storage projects. If Republicans had not stood firm in fighting for more storage, this funding would likely have never materialized and we would be faced with more 'Band-Aid' fixes to our severe droughts.

Governor Brown signs water bond legislation as Assembly Republican Leader Connie Conway (standing at left corner of table) and State Senator Jean Fuller (second from left) look on. Photo by Kelly Huston, Office of the Governor.

"As a result of strong Republican leadership, Californians will now have the chance this November to cast a ballot on a long-overdue water bond that will help meet our statewide water needs and provide a secure reliable water supply for millions of Californians for generations to come."

The legislation, AB 1471 by Assembly Member Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood), replaces the current $11.1 billion water bond on the November ballot. The bipartisan legislation passed the State Senate 37-0 and the State Assembly 77-2. The new bond includes $7.12 billion in new debt, plus the repurposing of existing unspent bond funds of $425 million for a total of $7.545 billion. None of the repurposed bond funds will be taken from existing projects. The measure will be Proposition 1 on the November ballot.

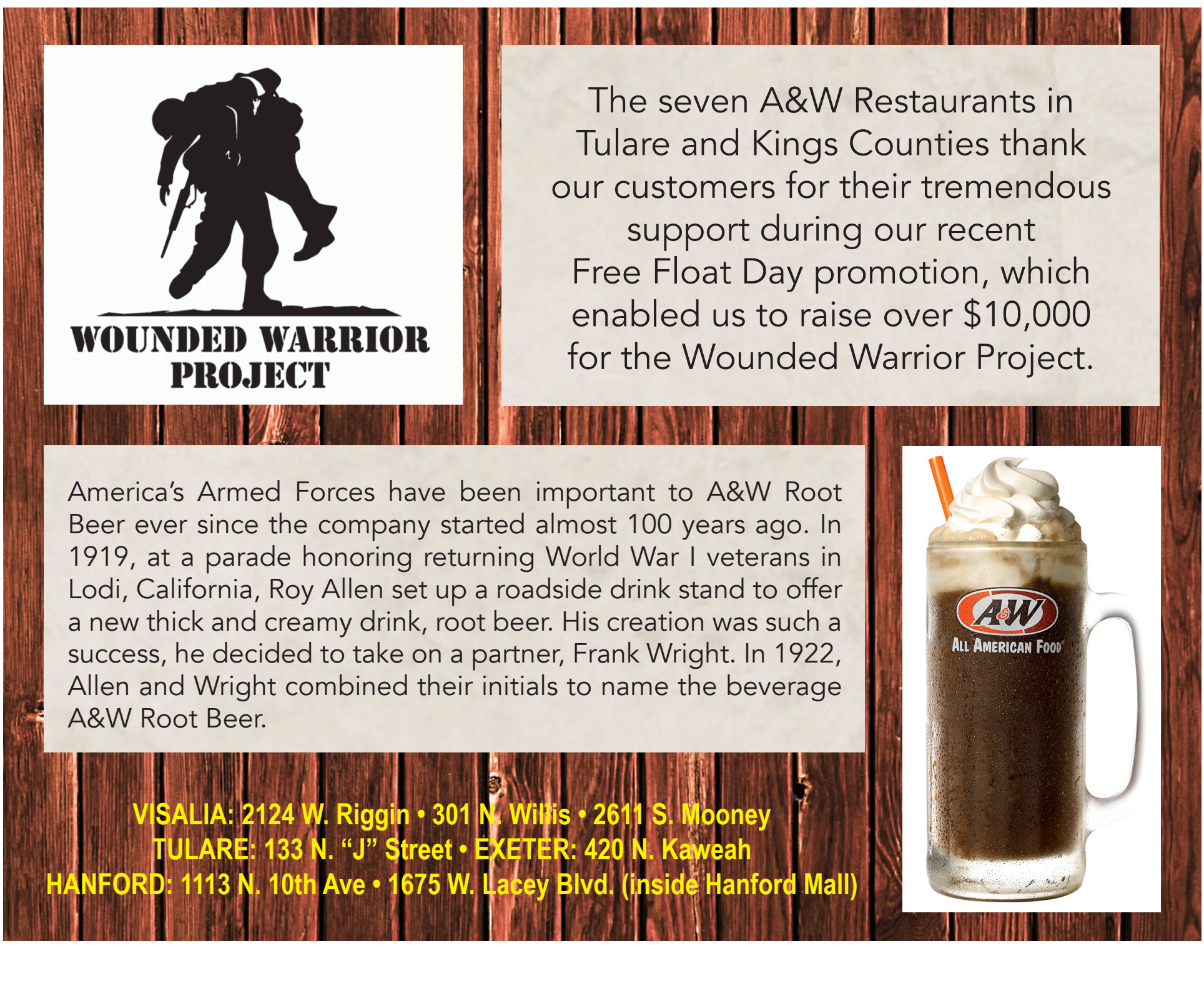
The water bond measure decision was also well received locally.

"I applaud the hard work and dedication of Assembly Members Connie Conway and Henry Perea and Senator Andy Vidak in leading the legislature in an effort to strengthen a bond proposal that we feel was previously incomplete," said California Citrus Mutual President Joel Nelsen. "To the governor's credit, he and his team listened to stakeholders and came a long way from the $2 billion for storage that was included in his original proposal to a more comprehensive package that addresses our Valley and the state's needs for a real solution.

"We have more money for storage, a path towards cross valley connectors, and funding for groundwater cleanup in disadvantaged communities," he added. "The previous proposals contained less money, no pathway for the connector, and in reality made too few happy. This is a positive step forward and I believe the speaker and the governor when they say we will work together to achieve all our goals."

Now it's up to California voters, which may be a challenge. Two recent public opinion polls commissioned by Association of California Water Agencies, the California Alliance for Jobs and The Nature Conservancy were conducted back-¬to-¬back by JMM Research, from July 28 through August 4.

A key finding of the polling indicates that, while the state's prolonged drought has increased voter concerns about the availability of water supplies, voters are nevertheless cautious about how much the state should obligate itself in new bond spending to improve and upgrade water facilities.



Non-Native Mosquito Found in Tulare County

Staff Reports

The Aedes aegypti mosquito has been detected within the City of Exeter by the Delta Vector Control District.

Aedes aegypti is an efficient carrier of diseases such as dengue, yellow fever and the chikungunya virus and is not native to California. No illnesses associated with this mosquito have been reported at this time. The same type of mosquito was also recently found in Madera, Fresno and Kern Counties. Aedes aegypti is a small, dark mosquito with white markings and banded legs. It may be active around dusk and dawn but bites most often during the day and often bites indoors.

Aedes aegypti

"The public's help is needed to eradicate this mosquito population before it can become established in our community," said Michael Alburn, manager of the Delta Vector Control District. "Residents who experience mosquito bites during the day are asked to contact the district."

To assist in the effort to eradicate this mosquito population and to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes, Tulare County residents are strongly urged to:

- Report mosquito bites that occur during the day (anonymously if you like) by calling the Delta Vector Control District toll-free at 1-877-732-8606 or visiting www.DeltaVCD.com. If you are in another area of residency, Delta Vector will re-direct you to the appropriate district.
- When spending time outside, apply insect repellents that contain DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535 according to label instructions.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when outside in the early morning and evening.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens that have holes.
- Eliminate standing water and containers that can hold water from around the home. This mosquito lays its eggs in water holding containers even if the containers are very small.

Mosquito abatement resources:

- Tulare County Delta Vector Control: Michael Alburn at 732-8606, or www.deltavcd.com/contact_us.html.
- Tulare Mosquito Abatement District: 686-6628.
- Get FREE mosquito fish for backyard ponds or water features by calling 877-732-8606 or by visiting www.DeltaVCD.com.

Virginia Gurrola and Ruben Macareno.

Gurrola Campaign Announces Advisors

Staff Reports

Ruben Macareno has accepted the role of campaign advisor for Virginia Gurrola, Tulare County Board of Supervisors candidate for the 5th District. He intends to utilize what he has learned from participating in a series of campaign meetings to make this a good old-fashioned campaign to win the 5th District position.

"Virginia is a great candidate and will be a great addition to the board of supervisors," said Macareno, who added that the race is non-partisan and he is not joining the campaign because she is a Democrat, but because she is simply the right person for the job.

"We have seen how Ms. Gurrola is approachable but yet doesn't back down from a political fight," said Macareno. "This is what we need in a leader and she has proven that over and over again."

Martha A. Flores

Macareno is a publisher by profession. His background includes working at the *Los Angeles Times* as a newsroom administrator, and several political stints in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, including his most recent run for the California State Assembly.

Gurrola, currently a Porterville City Council member and a longtime community leader, has also brought in Martha A. Flores, a lifetime resident of Porterville known for her history of community service, to join the campaign's advisory committee. Flores brings her experience and political network to the campaign.

"I believe she will make the difference to all the demographic populations in District 5," said Flores of Gurrola. "She is the right choice and voice."

Flores, who retired in 2010 after a long career at Porterville Unified School District, has a political history that includes serving as campaign manager and numerous other leadership campaign positions for candidates running for the board of supervisors, sheriff, city council and school board.

Flores was elected to the Sierra View Hospital Board in 2008 and has served as treasurer for a bond initiative. She was also a board member of Family HealthCare Network, Central California Family Crisis Center, Tulare-Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Youth Services Foundation.

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National Parks Tourism Adds $111.72 Million to Local Economy

Staff Reports

A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 1,476,819 visitors to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in 2013 spent $111,723,700 in communities near the park. That spending supported 1,392 jobs in the local area.

"Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world," said Superintendent Woody Smeck. "We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides, and to use the park as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy – returning $10 for every $1 invested in the National Park Service – and it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities."

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas, Christopher Huber and Lynne Koontz for the National Park Service. The report shows $14.6 billion of direct spending nationally by 273.6 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported more than 237,000 jobs nationally, with more than 197,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy of $26.5 billion.

According to the 2013 economic analysis, most visitor spending was for lodging (30.3%), followed by food and beverages (27.3%), gas and oil (12.1%), admissions and fees (10.3%), and souvenirs and other expenses (10%).

The largest job categories supported by visitor spending were restaurants and bars (50,000 jobs) and lodging (38,000 jobs).

To download the report, visit www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm. The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in California and how the National Park Service works with California communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/california.

Local Health Officials Remind Parents to Protect Your Child at Any Age

The Kings County Department of Public Health reminds parents that vaccines and well-child visits should be on everyone's Back-to-School list. Scheduling appointments for well-child visits and vaccinations with your primary care providers before school starts will help to start the school year off right and on time.

Childhood vaccines are also available at the Kings County Department of Public Health for those with Medi-Cal and many private insurance plans. Getting children all of the vaccines recommended by CDC's immunization schedule is one of the most important things parents can do to protect their children's health – and that of classmates and the community. All Kings County schools require children to be current on vaccinations before enrolling to protect the health of all students.

Sequoia Parks Foundation Receives $100,000 Grant

Staff Reports

The Sequoia Parks Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, has received a grant of $100,000 from Madera County's Jeangerard Family Foundation, longtime supporters of the parks. This year's grant will help educate youth as well as increase accessibility in the parks.

National parks should be for everyone. But too often, low-income youth in the Central Valley have no reason to go despite their close proximity to Sequoia and Kings Canyon.

Accessible trail in Kings Canyon provides spectacular views of Zumwalt Meadow for Gale Williams.

The Junior Ranger program seeks to remedy that with a program for ages 5 and up that teaches about the natural sciences. The Jeangerard Family Foundation's grant will help this award-winning program by funding an update and reprint of the Junior Ranger Booklets provided free in any visitor center, as well making new badges for children who earn them by completing the booklets. With more support, the program will be able to bring more youth to the parks, and to develop more fun, educational activities on topics like geography, history, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Making the parks more accessible is also a goal of grant, which will allow the parks to complete a universal access nature trail on the Kings Canyon valley floor, as well as plan for more universal trails in Grants Grove.

The Jeangerard Family Foundation has provided a majority of the funding for the two-mile universal access nature trail, which begins at the Zumwalt Meadow parking lot. Suitable for all ages and abilities, the trail's boardwalk affords spectacular views of Zumwalt Meadow and the steep canyon, and provides access and the freedom to explore and experience nature's beauty and grandeur, hearing the soothing sounds of the river, watching wildlife, and taking in the spectacular views of backcountry wilderness.

"I can't invite you to hike through the mountains, but I can invite you to come on this universal access trail that I can go on," said wheelchair user and universal access supporter Gale Williams.

The Jeangerard Foundation, established in 1992, is a Madera-based organization specializing in conservation and the preservation of natural resources.

"Giving to the park enables everyone in the United States, and the world for that matter, to see what these beautiful parks look like," said Jack Jeangerard, funder with the Jeangerard Foundation. "That's the reason why I like to give to the parks. Because it gives a bigger view to a vast number of people and that's what I'm looking to do."

For more information, contact Patricia LaCroix, director of the Sequoia Parks Foundation, at pplacroix@gmail.

Costa's Twin Lakes Resort, the future site of Sierra Care at the Lake

Construction Begins at Sierra Care at the Lake in Springville

Steve Pastis

Sierra Care at the Lake, a 24-hour congregate living care facility, is now under construction along Globe Drive in Springville. The 12-bed health facility is for people of any age, not just for seniors, according to Joel Vargas, its project coordinator.

"It's for people who are mentally aware of who they are and where they are, but who are unable to take care of themselves," Vargas said, adding that the new facility will be able to serve paraplegics and quadriplegics.

The building permits were issued last month and the project is currently under construction. Last week, concrete was poured for the foundation of the new building.

"We're basically doing an addition, taking the existing 2,040 square feet and adding 2,412 square feet," said Vargas. Plans call for the building's colors to be earthtones.

"We're looking at four months of construction," he said, estimating the facility would be open by January, or as soon as the state issues licenses following an inspection of the completed facility.

Sierra Care plans to have a job fair to hire registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, a primary physician, one director of nursing, and a chef "familiar with preparing meals for these types of patients."

The Costa Natalie Trust, based in Glendale, hired Vargas to find "a property with a scenic view" in Tulare County to open a health facility similar to the one it operates in Los Angeles. "When I found this property, I came out and met with the owner," he said, adding that he approached Bill Whitlatch of The Whitlatch Group "since he initially had the listing." By then, however, the property was a listing of Melson Realty, but Whitlatch still helped Vargas through the process. Since then, Vargas moved from Southern California to Visalia and now works part-time for The Whitlatch Group.

"We were looking for counties that have a need for these facilities," said Vargas, who noted that the location "is centrally located between San Francisco and Los Angeles." He added that county officials assisted by "helping us understand the county process."

"We worked closely with the developer and their local realtor in securing the site and provided them guidance through the entitlement process," said Tulare County Economic Development Manager Michael Washam. "Specifically, they first came into the county with a proposed location that was zoned for agriculture and located in a farming area. This type of project is incompatible with farming activities and is not allowed in agricultural zoned areas. Instead of telling them it can't be done, we offered our assistance in locating suitable areas for the project to be developed.

"They would come in with a potential location and we would review the opportunities and constraints for the site," he continued. "They finally secured this beautiful location near Springville. The Economic Development Office helped with the application and guided them through the public hearing process to obtain the special use permit under which the facility will be built and operate."

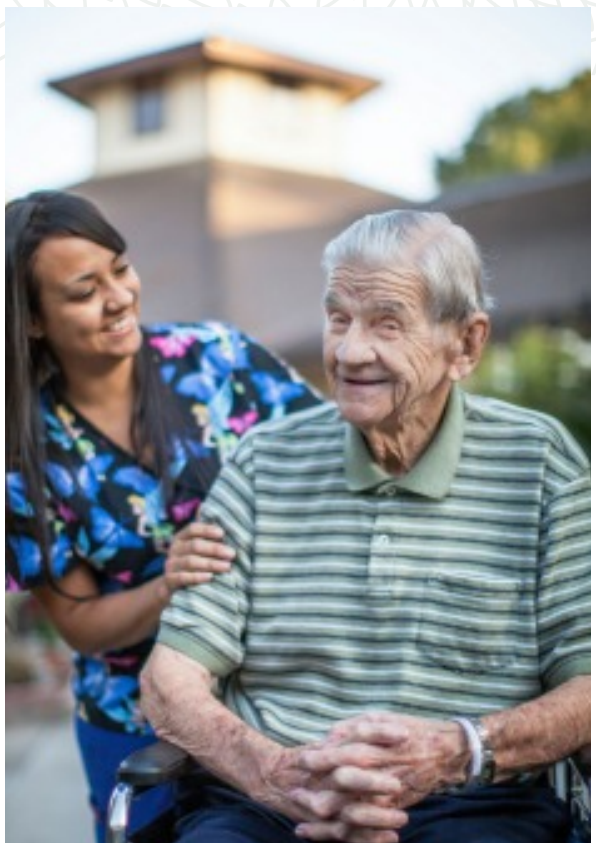
The Costa Natalie Trust purchased the property in late January for $700,000. Its new facility will be on the former site of Costa's Twin Lakes Resort, which really "wasn't a resort," according to Vargas. "It was utilized for recreational fishing purposes. The former owner allowed overnight stays with small RVs and tents."

The lake has bluegill, bass and catfish. Although zoned for ag purposes, the property only has a few trees, such as pomegranate, olive, orange and "two wild date trees," Vargas said.

The trust is in the process of opening a similar site in Bakersfield. "That started first, but we kind of reached a standstill with the county," said Vargas, citing delays in the public hearings stage. It should be noted, however, that the proposed and delayed Bakersfield site is in a historic district.

"The residents who currently live there are fighting it, but they don't understand," said Vargas. "They're thinking it's going to be a drug rehabilitation center or a place with people getting out of jail. Most of the people at this facility will never get out of bed."

Another building of about the same size will be built "diagonally across the property," said Vargas. Public hearings will likely begin in February for that project.



Elderwood

Continued from p. 1

Subdivision. "I cost a lot less than other attorneys, but if you're going to delay this, you should make it a condition that (developer) Mr. Roberts is going to pay me."

Roberts denied after the meeting that he sought the delay. "It was not a victory," he said.

Several other project opponents addressed the board with their concerns about water usage and increased traffic if the planning commission's decision against the project is overruled.

"All we're asking you as supervisors is to put yourself in our position as a home owner," said area resident Robert Pearcy. "I don't think you'd like it any more than we do."

Developer David Roberts then presented arguments for the project.

"The (residential) zoning was put there in the '70s and we bought (the property) in the '80s with an eye on doing this when the time was right," he said, adding that if the community was concerned about water usage, they should prefer the development because the property would require less water than if it was fully farmed.

"Woodlake needs a project like this," Roberts continued. "I talked to merchants. This community needs this sort of development. It needs a stronger economic base."

Following Roberts' comments, Supervisor Steve Worthley moved to continue the hearing on September 23rd. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Allen Ishida. The vote was 4-1 to postpone the discussion.

"We were floored," said area resident Lauri Segrue-Polly after the meeting. "We were all disappointed. (The project has) been denied repeatedly. It's been unanimously denied by the planning commission. Their studies are old. They never did an EIR (economic impact report)."

"I really wanted to speak to them about their process," said Jim Gorden of Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth. "(The board of supervisors) should have sent it back to the planning commission."

"When I'm ready to vote, I want to vote," said Supervisor Cox, the lone dissenter in the vote to postpone the decision, after the meeting. "Let's get it done."

So why did supervisors again delay a decision on Elderwood Heights?

"We don't view it as a delay," said Michael Spata, assistant director of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency's planning branch. "We view it as an opportunity to meet with the developer and the community to see if we can try to resolve the matter both amicably and effectively.

"I understand the sentiments of the developer, the community and the elected official, however, we do not view this as a needless delay," he continued. "It's necessary to explore all opportunities to see if an effective resolution can occur. Whenever you have a challenge, you have an opportunity to see if both sides can reach common ground."

Recycle this paper

Dollar General Continues Tulare County Expansion

Steve Pastis

When Dollar General opened its doors at the White River Plaza in February, Tulare County Supervisor Phil Cox said, "We are excited to have Dollar General here in Earlimart. They are going to make a difference in this community."

Dollar General is already making a difference in several communities in the area, creating jobs and paying taxes to the cities and county. The company currently has seven stores open in Tulare County, but that number will grow very soon.

"They just recently expanded into the south San Joaquin Valley area and their stores here have exceeded all their sales expectations," said Tulare County Economic Development Manager Michael Washam. "That is why they are looking to locate here."

Dollar General, which describes itself as "the country's largest small-box retailer," with more than 11,000 stores in 40 states, offers shoppers frequently used items, such as packaged foods, snacks, pet supplies, health and beauty aids, cleaning supplies, paper products, basic apparel, housewares and seasonal items.

Dollar General is closing escrow on a location in Strathmore, which Washam expects to open "around the end of the year." The company is also looking to build stores in Tipton and Poplar-Cotton Center.

"They've looked at both locations and they are looking at alternatives," said Washam, adding that two locations in Poplar-Cotton Center are being considered for that new store.

Tipton has "a water issue" with the water lines being too small, Washam said, "but they want to move forward as soon as they can.

"They're also looking at additional locations in the county," he added.

Washam estimated the time between Dollar General deciding on a location and opening its doors to the public as being between six and nine months, with about half of that being construction time.

There will be an even more immediate and dramatic local expansion of Dollar General stores if the seven Family Dollar stores in Tulare County become Dollar General locations.

On Monday, Dollar General offered to buy Family Dollar Stores for $78.50 a share, a transaction valued at $9.7 billion. This offer follows last month's bid by rival Dollar Tree to pay Family Dollar shareholders $74.50 a share. Dollar General also offered $305 million as a break-up fee to expedite the sale.

If the offer is accepted, Dollar General would have nearly 20,000 stores in 46 states, with sales of over $28 billion – more than validating the company's claim of being the country's largest small-box retailer.

Kaweah Delta Introduces Its New SimMan 3G

Staff Reports

With the help of new emergency medicine physician Dr. Steven J. Warrington, Kaweah Delta Health Care District demonstrated the educational purposes and use of the district's new SimMan 3G, a wireless, state-of-the-art training solution for its clinical staff. The simulation kicked off Kaweah Delta's Board of Director's August 11 meeting at the Kaweah Delta Lynn Havard Mirviss Education Center.

Dr. Warrington, who also is the new director of Kaweah Delta's simulation lab, highlighted the educational training benefits and features of the SimMan 3G, including:

- Q-CPR Technology that measures the quality of CPR, providing real time feedback on compression rate, depth, release and hands-off time, as well as generating palpable pulses, blood pressure wave forms and ECG artefacts.
- Drug and Event Recognition, which allows students to administer drugs simultaneously. It registers the amount, speed and type of drug automatically and applies the appropriate physiological responses, saving the instructor time and improving the overall intelligent debrief.
- Chest Decompression and Chest Drain – Students can now perform a needle thoracentesis and insert a chest drain bilaterally.
- Convulsions - Degrees of seizures and convulsions can be created from minor effect through to a full convulsion.
- Eye Signs - The pupils appropriately respond to light.

For more information, visit www.laerdal.com/us/SimMan3G.

CEMEX

Continued from p. 1

started digging in the Dry Creek aquifer, his well only produced five gallons a minute.

The goal of this article is to connect the dots. What happened to the wells going down or completely dry in February next to the Stillwell mine east of Lemon Cove is the same thing that has happened for the last 50 years in the Kaweah River basin. Anytime you disturb the underground aquifer it is going to adversely affect neighboring wells. In the 1960s it was the Artesia Mine and Kaweah River Rock. In the seventies it was the Lemon Cove Project. In the eighties and nineties it was an addition to the Lemon Cove Project, and now it's the Stillwell Project. All of these mines were granted their Conditional Use Permit (CUP) by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. Why, after John Dofflemyer 's 13-year fight explaining the adverse affects of mining in the river basin, does the debate continue?

This article can't answer that question, but can review the events of the last few decades and possibly give pause the next time a gravel mining company comes knocking at Tulare County's door.

The next big gravel mining operation after Artesia and Kaweah River Rock was the Lemon Cove project permitted by the county in 1971, and amended in 1985 to include a smaller piece of land next door. The permit was granted to RMC Pacific Materials Inc., a company that was later bought out by Cemex. Both the 1971 and the 1985 mines cover 378 acres and contain several open ponds, looking quite full, inside the mining area.

Just a stone's throw from both mines lives Frank Callahan, a long-time Lemon Cove farmer. Callahan's problems with Cemex have been two-fold: first, with the gravel mine affecting his wells and, secondly, with their failed attempt at reclamation.

In 1986, a year after the smaller mine was producing gravel, Callahan's well went from pumping 110 gallons per minute to pumping 35 gallons per minute. His well also went from 19 feet to 28.5 feet. Callahan complained to the BOS, which considered revoking the smaller parcel's mining permit. It wasn't until 1994 that RMC constructed and filled a recharge moat and Callahan's wells went back to normal. RMC was negligent about filling the moat high enough to keep his wells producing, and Callahan had to go back to again complain to the BOS.

Facing the prospect of a full investigation because of Callahan's water problems, RMC started consistently filling the recharge trench and Callahan's wells again went back to normal. Astutely stated in long-time Lemon Cove farmer Nancy Lang's letter in April of this year to RMA, "Unfortunately, the recharge moats are a double edged sword; while maintaining a more or less stable surface to water level, they also were masking the permanent adverse effects of removing the water bearing strata materials of sand, gravel and cobble that conducts our water, affecting our SWL and drawdown."

In 1994, RMC had come to the same conclusion. They realized they had to keep the recharge trenches full to ward off legal action. RMC knew that if the issue were fully vetted it would prove that their mine was draining the aquifer and they may lose their permit. The same thing happened in 2000 with Cemex. Callahan wanted to pursue legal action against Cemex to address the issue of what would happen to the farmer's wells after Cemex left town. But Cemex had the same legal team as RMC and built an efficient trench around the new smaller mine. Because Callahan's wells were artificially back to normal, his lawyers said he didn't have a chance of winning in court.

Fourteen years later, now that Cemex has stopped filling the trenches because the gravel has run out, Callahan's prediction has come true. His wells produce one third of what they used to. The problem started with Callahan's wells then continued on down the line to Nancy Lang Cutler, Todd Dofflemyer, and George Clausen. All long-time local farmers, they presented their case to the BOS, first through letters and meetings that didn't seem to resolve their issues, then through speaking during public comment and reaching out to the media.

All mining permits granted by BOS clearly state, "The project shall not interfere with any well or domestic water source located on adjacent or downstream properties." Thus, it is Cemex' obligation to fill the recharge moat until the land has been reverted back to what it was before the mine. In other words, they need to continue filling their moats until a reclamation project is complete and successful, not just because there is no more gravel. If the reclamation plan is too vague to legally force Cemex to comply, then the responsibility of getting the recharge trenches filled, and completing the reclamation, falls on the shoulders of Tulare County RMA.

Reclamation brings us to the second problem.

After Cemex finished extracting all the gravel they could from the small mine permitted in 1985, they converted the mine to farmland. Instead of reverting the land back to a porous substance where water could flow, CEMEX filled it with fine dirt. As Callahan stated in a letter to the BOS, "Another fact is, if you remove sand and rock from the water strata and replace it with dirt, the water cannot as readily flow through the aquifer. (Please note that Terminus Dam is a dirt-filled dam.)" In short, converting formally sandy gravely land to farmland shut off that part of the aquifer and permanently damaged Callahan's wells.

What Happens Now?

In response to the residential wells going dry next to the Stillwell Project, and the additional complaints about the older Lemon Cove mines, the RMA has ordered a peer review. Tully and Young of Sacramento was hired to complete the peer review and should be done by the end of the week. RMA will circulate the peer review to all parties concerned and they will have 30 days to submit their comments. A staff report will be prepared containing the peer review, everyone's comments about the peer review, comments during BOS meetings, and all previous letters. The staff report will be presented to the planning commission during a public hearing where all parties concerned will have their say. As a result of the planning commission, the RMA will then present their recommendations to the BOS and offer one or two alternative choices as well.

A separate staff report and public hearing may be necessary to address the two mines permitted in 1971 and 1985 because they were permitted without an EIR or CEQA approval.

"Right now we are in an organization of information stage. In the next few weeks we should have the peer review to put out for public comment. The only thing I can say right now is stay tuned," said Mike Spata, head of the RMA.

And Finally…

In the meantime, our very own experienced and wise farmers have some old-fashioned, common sense, advice – for a lot less than what the county is paying Tully and Young. Pump the water from the ponds and fill the recharge trenches. Don't reclaim the pits left over by the mine with fine dirt and block the aquifer. Lastly, and most importantly, quit mining in Kaweah River's aquifer and dig your granite out of the sides of the foothills like Tom Cairns' operation does.

The only gravel mine in the Kaweah River Basin brought to my attention that does not affect the aquifer is Tom Cairn's operation--which probably explains why Cemex paid their $300-an-hour lawyers to write a scathing letter discrediting him.

What are the Lemon Cove farmer's ultimate goals?

Nancy Cutler stated in her letter to the RMA, "Without adequate water we cannot farm. Our economic livelihood and the value of our land is ruined. I want to express my hope is that the Resource Management Agency will protect our interests and will work with us to assure that our historic water availability and quantity is maintained."

Referring to converting the smaller mine to farmland and blocking the aquifer, Clausen said, "Our goal is to stop the mining companies from doing it again.

"Just make me whole; put me back where I was." said Callahan.

Frank Callahan, George Clausen, Nancy Cutler, and John Dofflemyer aren't just long-time Lemon Cove residents -- their grandparents were long-time residents. And these farmers themselves are no spring chickens, so that tells you how far back their institutional memory goes. As Dofflemyer pointed out, "Cemex is only going to stay as long as the gravel holds out. Gravel mining is only a one-time extraction benefit. But farming produces a crop every year, and for every crop there is a benefit for the entire community."

So who do we trust? A multi-national company who is going to skedaddle the day after they extract the last bit of gravel, or farming families who have been the caretakers of this land since the mid-1800's?

The Artesia mine does have a happy ending, though. When Artesia went broke in 1972, a Los Angeles cement company was left holding the note. Dofflemyer met with them at their L.A. office and suggested that, since there was no gravel left, why not donate the land to a conservation trust? At first they hated the idea, because they didn't like Dofflemyer. But two weeks later, they donated the land and participated voluntarily in the clean-up. That land is now a beautiful piece of reclaimed property that is part of the Sequoia River Land Trust along Dry Creek Road. We have John Dofflemyer to thank for that.

If you subscribe
we'll know where you live

Seville

Continued from p. 1

it was thought a new well could be one-and-a-half to two years away, but a fortunate find was made by Water Dynamics, the company hired by the county to take care of the old well.

Reedley-based Belknap Well Drilling had a rig available for a few days between other jobs. On a handshake agreement, the rig was brought in and work began immediately.

The result is a 300-foot well, nearly three times as deep as the old well, with good pressure, Worthley said.

The new well should be operational this week and will be used in conjunction with the older well, Worthley said. The new tank should be installed within the next few weeks. Water from the new well is currently being tested for its quality. However, no matter the result, the water vending machine is being built and will be installed as soon as possible. Some residents are sharing water with others, allowing their neighbors to hook up hoses to their well, with the fear that their own well could also run dry.

Monson, too, is being started on a bottled-water program. But, an immediate solution for the bigger picture of its water problems is more difficult to figure out, Worthley said.

In the long-term, there are several options being discussed, including a system for Monson together with neighboring Sultana. Likewise, a water district between Seville and Yettem is also being researched.

Meanwhile, the Alta Irrigation District is looking into the feasibility and funding possibilities of a surface water treatment facility. The hope is that fresh mountain water off of the river could be diverted to provide fresh water for Seville, Yettem, Cutler, Orosi, Sultana and Monson. If the decision is made to build a surface water treatment facility, the project could take few years to complete.

Neighboring Communities Also Suffering

Other communities in the area are also facing major water issues, especially the small community of Monson. Residents there are on private wells, with no local water system. These wells are running dry.

"As bad as Seville has been, at least they had a water system," Worthley said.

Also a farming community, most residents do not have the funds to attempt to dig a deeper well in their community, even if a rig was available.

Other Water Issues in Tulare County

There are other areas of private wells running dry throughout the county, including an area in eastern Porterville where at least 70 individual wells have gone dry, Coyne said. These wells are very shallow, measuring only 20 to 50 feet. There are also other communities, water districts and cities suffering water problems due to the drought and their aging systems, including Strathmore.

County officials are continuing to seek short-term and long-term solutions to these problems.

$1 Million Grant Approved for Bottled Water for Tulare County Schools

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors has received approval for a $1 million state grant to provide quality drinking water to qualified schools in the county.

The Tulare County Office of Education staff, under the leadership of Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak, played an important role in securing this grant.

There are at least 20 schools and nine childcare facilities in the county that have water contamination problems, said Eric Coyne, spokesman for Tulare County Resource Management Agency.

Many of these are rural schools that either operate with a private well or belong to a local water district.

These wells may be contaminated by nitrates, arsenic or other elements, making the water unsuitable to drink, Coyne said.

When the grant comes through, 2,500 to 5,000 children will receive free bottled water, distributed along with the USDA-funded childcare food program.

The schools are scattered around the county, and each one will have to be individually qualified based on its contamination problems and financial needs, Coyne said.

This would be a three-year grant and would serve as a pilot-program for the state, he added.

Students will also learn about water management and recycling, as the plastic bottles will be recycled.

The county is in the process of qualifying schools now.

Following that step, the water could be distributed almost immediately.

Print replica edition at issuu.com/ourvalleyvoice

Briefly...

City of Visalia Seeks Input in Drawing District Election Boundaries

The City of Visalia invites residents to attend an important series of community meetings to provide input in developing five voting districts to elect city council members beginning in November, 2016.

Two meetings to explain the process and the criteria used to draw the five city council districts will be held on Thursday, September 25, at 6:30pm, in the Linwood Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 3129 S. Linwood St., and Tuesday, September 30, at 7 p.m. at Manuel Hernandez Community Center, 247 W. Ferguson Ave.

In developing the five city council districts prior to the 2016 election, the city must comply with legal criteria in establishing districts so that the districts are at least as nearly equal in population as required by law, do not result in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of race or color, and are not gerrymandered in violation of the principles established in the U.S. Supreme Court case Shaw v. Reno. In addition to the legal criteria, the council voted to adopt optional criteria to be used in the development of the districts.

The preliminary schedule proposed by the National Demographics Corporation (NDC) includes holding community forums and distributing public participation kits, release of NDC's draft plan, and holding a public hearing on the consultant's and public plans. Community forums would then be held, with a council hearing in early 2015. Additional hearings, readings and adoption would take place between February and April.

The council's goal is to adopt the district boundaries by June 2015, to ensure there is ample time for the citizens and any potential city council candidates to understand the districts prior to the election cycle in 2016.

Fourth West Nile Virus Case Reported in Tulare County

Four Tulare County residents have already been reported to have the West Nile Virus, and August and September are peak months for the virus. Delta Vector Control and Tulare Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) have reported mosquito pools in Visalia, Farmersville, Dinuba, Exeter, Woodlake, Goshen, Traver, Ivanhoe, Tulare and Cutler, with 222 pools testing positive in Tulare County. Delta Vector and Tulare MAD are also continuing to find birds that are testing positive for WNV.

Residents are urged to increase their awareness of potential breeding grounds around their properties. Be on the lookout for homes that are unoccupied or in foreclosure, since many have swimming pools or backyard ponds that could breed mosquitoes.

Call 1-877-968-2473 to report a dead bird or squirrel, or you can submit a report at http://westnile.ca.gov.

Visalia Planning Commission Approves General Plan

It's been over a three-year process, but the City of Visalia's General Plan Update is nearing its completion. After two public hearings in July, the Visalia Planning Commission recommended adoption of the Visalia General Plan and Climate Action Plan. The plan now goes through a public hearing process with the Visalia City Council. A special public hearing will be held Monday, Sept. 8, at 5:30pm at City Hall, 707 W. Acequia Ave.

The city is conducting an outreach effort to inform the public of the final stages of this process. To learn more about the General Plan Update, go to www.visaliageneralplanupdate.com.

District Attorney Tim Ward to Speak on August 28

District Attorney Tim Ward will be the featured speaker on August 28 at 6:30pm in the Blue Room of the Visalia Branch of the Tulare County Library. Ward will talk about his career as district attorney for Tulare County and will answer questions afterwards. This program is free to the public.

Family Services of Tulare County Awarded $15,000

Blue Shield of California Foundation announced a grant of $15,000 to Family Services of Tulare County to support its capacity to provide critical services and shelter for survivors of abuse in Tulare County. These core-operating funds offer the flexibility to respond to new demands and opportunities, so that Family Services can continue to reach many of the most vulnerable Californians.

"The Blue Shield of California Foundation's commitment to supporting agencies that reach victims of domestic violence and strengthening the field of providers in California is critical," said Caity Meader, executive director of Family Services of Tulare County. "We are grateful to be their partner in ending family violence, and will work to continue to be effective stewards of their funding."

September 2 Deadline for Unsecured Property Taxes Payment

Tulare County Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector Rita Woodard reminds taxpayers that unsecured tax bills are now due and that the delinquent date is September 2. If a payment is not received or postmarked by the delinquent date, a 10% penalty will be added to the bill. For more information, call 636-5250.

Porterville College Fall Semester Begins August 25th

Porterville College fall 2014 semester classes are still open, but time is running out. Saturday classes begin Aug. 23 and regular fall instruction begins Monday, Aug. 25. Sept. 8 is the last day to enroll in and add semester-length classes for the fall semester.

"We encourage all students to register as soon as possible in order for them to secure the classes they need and ensure there isn't a delay in receiving financial aid," PC President Dr. Rosa Flores-Carlson said.

Porterville College is located at 100 E. College Ave. in Porterville. For more information, visit www.portervillecollege.edu or call 791-2200.

Tulare County Library Helps Stretch the Food Dollar

Starting in September, the Visalia Branch of the Tulare County Library will offer workshops and book clubs on subjects like couponing, meal planning on a budget, and money management.

The first workshop, on couponing, will begin Friday, Sept. 12, at 3pm in the Blue Room of the Visalia Branch. The book club, beginning Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 6:30pm, will include how-to books on couponing for everyday needs as well as "extreme" couponing to stockpile for a rainy day. Additional programs will focus on how to make a meager food budget stretch, how to plan your family meals to be inexpensive, healthy and easy to prepare, and how to manage your money a little better to make ends meet.

The program is a result of a Library Services and Technology Act grant through the California State Library and Infopeople's Eureka Leadership program. To sign up for the series, contact Librarian Amanda Grombly at 713-2710 or AGrombly@tularecountylibrary.org.

Kaweah Delta Releases Earthquake Safety Standards Video

Kaweah Delta Health Care District has released a new informational video, "The KD Newsreel," to inform the community about what the district is doing to meet earthquake safety standards and two upcoming community events. The four-minute newsreel can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDzWifH-cp6U&feature=youtu.be&list=UUPu-JMIH-jiE2I-BXpvt5xuw.

By 2030, all acute care hospitals in California must meet earthquake safety standards set by SB1953. That means that the Kaweah Delta Mineral King Wing, built in 1969, will either have to undergo extensive reconstruction or be replaced. While Kaweah Delta has concluded it would be wise to invest in replacing the Mineral King Wing, Kaweah Delta has engaged a firm specializing in these matters to confirm the need for a replacement facility.

Lemoore Teacher among EPS Literacy and Intervention Honorees

EPS Literacy and Intervention, a division of School Specialty, Inc., announced the winners of its 2014 Academy Star Awards, which honor students who have overcome significant challenges to build proficiency in reading and math, as well as teachers who go above and beyond on a daily basis to provide their students with every opportunity to improve their skills.

One of the two 2014 Academy Teachers of Excellence was Chris Brainard of University Charter School in Lemoore, who implemented Academy of MATH after administrators recognized the need for a more intensive, hands-on math intervention program.

Joan LeMahieu Joins Sports Facilities Advisory

The Sports Facilities Advisory, which produces institutional grade financial forecasts for new sports complexes and oversees their opening and management, has hired Joan LeMahieu as the full-time general manager of City Beach, an SFA-managed facility that boasts two locations in the Bay Area, offering sports, entertainment and teambuilding experiences.

LeMahieu, a sports management expert best known nationally for her stint at Ford Field, home of the NFL's Detroit Lions, is best known locally for managing the Visalia Convention Center, L.J. Williams Theatre and the Rotary Theatre in Visalia.

SoCalGas Reminds Everyone to 'Call 811 Before You Dig'

Southern California Gas Co. has joined with other utilities around the country to remind contractors, homeowners and businesses to "call 811 before you dig" at a construction site, in the yard or at a business to avoid costly and potentially dangerous damage to utility-owned natural gas lines and other underground utility-owned equipment.

SoCalGas advises people to call 811 at least two working days before a project start date to help avoid damage to these hidden natural gas lines. The service is free.

To report a dig-in, call 911 or SoCalGas immediately at 1-800-427-2200.

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Foundation Calls for Help to Spruce Up the Tulare County Fairgrounds

Staff Reports

Community workdays are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 23 and 24, beginning at 8am to clean, plant, paint and ready the fairgrounds for the 95th edition of the Tulare County Fair, "Celebrating the Bounty of Our County."

The Tulare County Fair Foundation is asking volunteers to bring tools, gloves and closed-toe shoes and to be prepared to help paint, plant, repair plumbing and irrigation and more. The Foundation especially needs the expertise of electricians, carpenters, welders and landscapers.

The foundation is also asking for donations of a wide range of equipment and supplies, including:

- Fall-color bedding flowers
- Golf carts or 4-wheelers
- Tractors with 3-point hitch
- 30 X 30 tent (through Sept. 15)
- Mower
- Plants and trees
- Shuttles
- Gravel and decomposed granite
- Irrigation supplies
- Water trucks
- Large generators

The Tulare County Fair Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization so donations are tax-deductible and volunteers will be recognized.

"We know how much the people of Tulare County value their fair, and how many great memories have been made here over the past 95 years," said Foundation Board President Geneva Shannon. "This is a chance for people to help ensure that the fair is available for future generations to make their own memories."

For information, contact the Tulare County Fair at 686-4707 or visit www.tcfair.org.

U.S. Cattle Inventory Down 3% from 2012

Staff Reports

As of July 1, there were 95 million head of cattle on U.S. farms, according to the Cattle Report published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This is the lowest inventory for July 1 since the series began in 1973.

Other key findings in the report include:

- The 2014 calf crop is expected to be 33.6 million, of which 24.3 million were born during the first half of the year and 9.3 million are expected to be born in the last six months of 2014.
- With tighter cattle supplies and historic cattle prices, all cattle on feed decreased to 11.6 million, down 6% from 2012.
- Of the 95.0 million cattle and calves, 39 million were all cows and heifers that have calved.
- Of the 39 million cows and heifers that have calved, 29.7 million head were beef cows and 9.3 million were milk cows.

Faced with budget reduction in fiscal year 2013, NASS discontinued the July edition of the Cattle report. The agency was able to bring the report back this year, however, following the complete reinstatement of the budget for its estimates program.

To obtain an accurate measurement of the current state of the U.S. cattle industry, NASS surveyed more than 10,000 operators across the nation during the first half of July. NASS interviewers collected the data by mail, telephone and through face-to-face personal interviews. NASS asked all participating producers to report their cattle inventories as of July 1, and calf crop for the entire 2014 calendar year.

The semiannual report and all other NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

Oakland Raiders Name Ruiz 4 Kids as Beneficiary

Staff Reports

Ruiz 4 Kids, a non-profit organization formed in conjunction with Ruiz Foods, has once again been named a beneficiary of the Oakland Raiders NFL football team. This special partnership allows fans to buy NFL tickets and support Ruiz 4 Kids in the process.

Ruiz 4 Kids will be selling tickets to the Raiders' home games during the 2014 football season. Tickets are available at the reduced price of $45-$75, based on seating location.

For each ticket sold, the Raiders will make a generous donation to Ruiz 4 Kids. The ticket buyer not only gets to attend the game, they help sustain Ruiz 4 Kids' 'Mini-Grant for Teachers Program,' which, to date, has awarded $48,627 to area school programs.

Tickets are available for the following dates: Aug. 28 vs. Seattle Seahawks, Oct. 12 vs. San Diego Chargers, Oct. 19 vs. Arizona Cardinals, Nov. 9 vs. Denver Broncos, Nov. 20 vs. Kansas City Chiefs, Dec. 21 vs. Detroit Lions. For tickets, call 591-5510 x 2118.

"Both Ruiz 4 Kids and Ruiz Foods appreciate the Oakland Raiders' commitment to the community," said Kim Ruiz Beck, Ruiz 4 Kids president and chairman of Ruiz Foods, Inc. "By giving Ruiz 4 Kids this opportunity, they are helping make a difference in the lives of children."

Ruiz 4 Kids' primary mission is to provide opportunities to inspire hope and change in children's lives.

Ruiz 4 Kids was founded in 1990 when Ruiz Foods Team Members approached Fred Ruiz asking him to help them explore ways to assist families with children in need. Since then, Ruiz 4 Kids has organized two annual fundraising events – a golf invitational to raise monies for college scholarships and a fiesta event to raise monies for area non-profits who are in need to grow their children-focused programs.

Ruiz Foods is a privately owned corporation with corporate offices in Dinuba. In addition to Chairman Ruiz Beck, Fred Ruiz is co-founder and chairman emeritus, and Rachel Cullen is the president and CEO.

Ruiz Foods' El Monterey brand is the market leader within the frozen Mexican food category and the top-selling brand of frozen Mexican food in the U.S. Ruiz Foods employs over 2,400 in four facilities in the United States.

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Viewpoint

Michael Brown and the America's Structural Violence Epidemic

David Ragland

I flew into St. Louis on Saturday, August 9, to celebrate the birthdays of my mother and nephew and immediately learned about Mike Brown, a soon-to-be college student who was fatally shot by Ferguson police. As my community and I struggle to make sense of this recent murder, I cannot help but think of the structures of racism and violence in America and how they perpetuate police brutality against Black Americans. Police brutality is a national crisis, but the underlying structural violence - racism, economic injustice and militarism – is a national epidemic.

Disproportionality in police use of force against Black Americans persists and cannot be tolerated. An April 2013 report prepared by the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement found that killings of Black Americans by "law enforcement, security guards and stand-your-ground vigilantes" have increased from one every 36 hours, in the first half of 2012, to one every 28 hours by the end of that year. This appalling statistic is rooted in structural racism that systematically excludes persons of color from opportunities and perpetuates negative stereotypes.

In their 2006 book, *The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide*, Meizhu Lui and Barbara Robles illustrate this continuing, race-oriented, systematic exclusion of Americans of color from opportunities that are supposed to build an individual's wealth - business loans, employment opportunities, mortgages and G.I. benefits, for example. BBC News' 2012 mini-documentary, "The Delmar Dividing Line," illuminates how the structural violence of impoverishment in St. Louis, Mo., continues to fall along racial lines with Blacks in the North with low incomes and Whites in the south with significantly higher incomes - a separation reminiscent of the 19th century.

In a society where wealth brings respect, these economic injustices translate into social, cultural and institutional views of Blacks as lazy and morally inferior. In addition, the Black community is often framed as violent and animalistic, as illustrated by a recent CNN video of a protest in Ferguson, Mo., where a police officer shouted, "Bring it, all you f***ing animals!" Perspectives like these serve to perpetuate structural racism and justify violence against the Black community as people who should be feared.

In his August 4, 2014 article for *Gawker*, Jason Parham argues that police brutality should finally be considered a national crisis. While I agree, we should go a step further and address our national epidemic of structural violence. With increasingly militarized police departments throughout the US, supported and influenced by a government that uses violence to police the world, our city streets are battlegrounds. With structural racism's harmful, dehumanizing images, the enemy insurgents are Black.

How should we respond to this national epidemic and the murder of Michael Brown? In dealing with the immediate issue, protesters and the family of Michael Brown want his killer immediately arrested and tried in court. This may happen, but while the motto on most police cars is protect and serve, there is an overwhelming sense in communities of color that police often simply protect their own.

In the short-term, as a start, we should require police to wear cameras on their uniforms. A 2013 Cambridge University study found that body cameras for police in Rialto, Ca. reduced the use of force by 50 percent. We should pursue greater community involvement in, and oversight of, policing. Further, we need to create policies that reward those who have taken mediation and nonviolence training and who demonstrate empathy and commitment to the communities they serve.

Most importantly, in the long-term, we need restorative justice programs and processes enabled in communities across the nation. Restorative justice processes can open dialogues between police and their communities and lessen the friction and false images that lead to Brown's murder--or Eric Garner, or Oscar Grant or Kendra James or Jonathan Ferrell or James Perez or any other unarmed young black person unjustly killed by police who have been primed and pumped up to use lethal force against perceived but nonexistent threat.

As a national community, we have to demand justice for Michael Brown and all others killed by or suffering from structural violence and its perpetuation of police brutality in America. We have to demand justice that restores our communities through listening, power sharing and mutual respect and moves us toward a cure for this national epidemic.

David Ragland, writing for PeaceVoice, is a visiting Assistant Professor of education at Bucknell University, board member for the Peace and Justice Association and United Nations representative for the International Peace Research Association.

Foreign Intervention or Local Peacebuilding in Nigeria?

Fr. Atta Barkindo

In the 1970s and 1980s, at the height of Nigeria's post-oil-discovery wealth and power, Nigerians could walk the streets of the major northern cities of Kaduna, Jos, Kano and Maiduguri without a concern, unhurried and unharmed. Today, public spaces, from churches to restaurants and cafes in these cities send very real frissons of fear down the spines of everyday people, a fear unalleviated by the decidedly ineffective security apparatus. As Wanjohi Kabukuru, a veteran Kenyan journalist writing for *New African Magazine* puts it, "these cities have lost their innocence." Thanks to Boko Haram, a militant group terrorizing Nigeria's Northeastern region, some cities seem to have lost their innocence forever. As Nigerian's grow weary of military intervention and other violent options in countering the suffering caused by Boko Haram, local peacebuilding groups are emerging as far more efficient in this regard – tackling structural issues like poverty and illiteracy to reduce the allure of groups like Boko Haram.

Records show that since 2009, Boko Haram has been orchestrating a vicious circle of violence in the Northeast; violence that has led to the death of more than 3,000 people. The abduction of 276 female students from Chibok Government Girls Secondary School on April 14, 2014 represents the morally-lowest height, thus far, of its "achievements." As Cameron Duodu of New African Magazine noted, the "night Chibok's name entered world history is not one that any of the abducted girls or any of their close relatives will ever want to remember."

And yet how can they ever forget it? The speed of the #BringBackOurGirls campaign and the sheer audacity of Boko Haram propelled the American intervention intended for the rescue of the stolen girls. Initially, the American intervention inspired a sense of hope and genuine expectation in an atmosphere already invaded by despair and desperation, particularly around Chibok. The snail's pace of the Nigerian government forced some parents to organize their own search. One of the parents declared, "All Nigerians are civilians, Americans are the real soldiers."

Currently, many Nigerians have a slightly less rosy perception of the American intervention. Bunmi Olusona, a social commentator based in Lagos argues that the United States and most European countries do not have impressive records in terms of intervention, especially in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Congo; on occasion, those interventions have ended up precipitating civil wars.

In addition, some Kaduna-based clerics argue that the American intervention in Chibok will simply pull further at an already polarized society. They are already calling the American intervention an invasion of Islamic territory by "Christian crusaders" from America.

While the American intervention continues to divide opinions, Northern Nigeria remains the poorest region of the country. Poverty and illiteracy rates, deforestation, internal migration, corruption and infrastructure problems are rising. Military intervention won't help these issues – it will only increase them and, in turn, increase the allure of fundamentalist activities.

As such, attention must be given to local peace initiatives ongoing in the region. Worthy of mention is the Wauru-Jabbe/Kofare Peace and Development Initiative in Jimeta-Yola, Adamawa State. Started in 2005 by Rev. Sr. Agnes Hannon, an Irish nun of the Mercy Sisters congregation, this program targets men and women from all backgrounds who have lost out on Westernized education. They are taught how to read and write and trained on the use of computers, internet and other mobile services to enable them to effectively participate in Nigeria's fast changing economy.

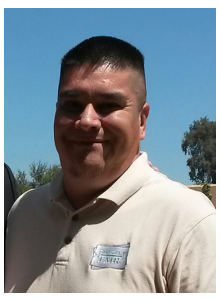
Following the intensity of the Boko Haram conflict, the initiative carried out a "Listening Survey" to determine the burning issues affecting the community, as described by the community. To combat the greater problems of health care and poverty, the program was reshaped as the Peace and Development Initiative to achieve peaceful co-existence and create opportunities that would accommodate those who feel excluded and may be tempted to join violent groups.

Currently, the adult literacy school has almost 500 adult students (both men and women), 15 part-time teachers and two part-time administrators. The computer literacy training offers certificates in typing, general computer knowledge, and a Computer Diploma. This program has great potential in turning around Nigerian means of livelihood, making terrorism less attractive and empowering them to participate in the ever changing Nigerian economy. Already, lives are changing!

Thus, as a matter of policy, Americans should recognize that it is important to provide non-military services that will unite local communities rather than divide them. Programs such as the Wauro-Jabbe/Kofare Peace and Development Initiative should be at the core of any intervention. Even if Nigerians are not real soldiers, they could be real peacemakers.

Fr. Atta Barkindo is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Politics and International Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, a Research Fellow for Open Doors International, and a Fellow of The Citizenship Initiative, University of South Florida. Article originally published at Insight on Conflict and distributed by PeaceVoice.

Letter: Supervisors Disingenuous



It's disingenuous for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to publicly state that they had always intended to increase their investment in the community.

We spent four months bargaining with them and they spent the first three months offering 0% -- no one goes to buy a car from a dealer and starts negotiations with: "I'll take it for free." Sounds to me like a waste of the taxpayer's money, if indeed there was willingness to offer increases from the beginning.

The more important thing is that the Board finally did do the right thing for the people of Tulare County. It doesn't matter if they did it because they always meant to or if it was a result of the endless media coverage shaming them and calling out their hypocrisy.

We need investment in county services and in the people who provide them. We also need more interaction between Supervisors and the community. Kermit Wullschleger, one of our bargaining team members, tried to make this happen and didn't get very far. We still hope to convince them that they have always intended to do this too.

Our other hope is to change the conversation in Tulare County. Why are we spending time and energy to decide whether or not we should invest in our community? We should instead look at how we begin to build the county we want our children to inherit. SEIU has a Community First vision for Tulare County that eliminates waste and focuses our resources on those things that provide a return for our county.

Quality public services are one of the best ways to do that. It's going to take all of us to support this change, but I believe that we are ready.

Greg Gomez is the Vice-Mayor of Farmersville and the President of the Tulare County Fair Board.

Columns & Letters

Letter: Supervisors - 'Get It' or 'Get Out'

I was a recent member of the negotiating team along with other county employees and SEIU staff. We were representing Units 1, 3, 6 and 7, which is about 3200 employees. This letter is a response to Board of Supervisors Chairman Phil Cox, who made comments (August 7, 2014-Edition of Valley Voice) regarding his assessment of the recent concluded negotiations between Tulare County HHSA and members of the negotiating team.

For months we kept asking the Tulare HHSA, what their counter offer was. We had asked for 8.74% over a three-year period. They stated they had the ability to give us a raise but no willingness, and they continued to offer 0%. For Chairman Cox to imply that they were always going to offer 3% brings up an awful lot of questions. If that were the case they could have saved the taxpayers of this county a whole lot of money (the county-hired attorney, Ms. Bennett, was paid over $250 an hour for countless hours over about four months).

We contacted Chairman Cox and other board members in an attempt to talk with them about the community of Tulare and the importance of putting community first. Chairman Cox as board chair made it clear that he and all other Board members would not talk with employees and/or families of employees. The door was closed. We had no recourse except the public speak at Tuesday morning Board meetings to address the BOS.

Chairman Cox stated in the 08/07/2014 edition of *Valley Voice*, "It was a well orchestrated plot to discredit the supervisors and I'm not a conspiracy theorist". In response to his comment: I'm not a conspiracy theorist either, however we (members of the negotiating team – primarily Tulare County employees) did not discredit the Board of Supervisors. They discredit themselves by their own actions.

For Mr. Cox to imply that paying for uniforms for animal shelter workers, providing employees to pay for health care premium with a $1000 deductible and sick buy back was the economic offer that was on the table was a ridiculous notion. We were clearly discussing an equity adjustment for about 3000 Tulare County Employees who had not seen a raise since 2008. As for Worthley and Vander Poel, we had made it clear to *Valley Voice* reporters that it was our understanding that they had said no to the first raise. According to Mr. Cox, that wasn't the case. Both Worthley and Vander Poel later took the raise they had initially refused.

Chairman Cox made statements about the negotiating team being ill-prepared, acting like children, and dissention between the union and rank-and-file. What does Mr. Cox have to back up those statements? Our lead negotiator, Jo Ann Salazar, was always well prepared. We did what a negotiating team is supposed to do, work hard to get some fair compensation for the thousands of citizens of Tulare county that have gone since 2008 without a pay increase. Chairman Cox stated there was dissention between the union and the rank-and-file. We had standing room only at our last general membership meeting to address progress we had finally made during negotiations. I do not recall one hard word that I or any other member of the negotiating team had with each other. If anything there was a lot of mutual respect. As for SEIU staffers, the lead negotiator, Jo Ann Salazar, and staffers Mark Araiz and Courtney Hawkins, are some of the finest people one will ever meet. They have so much integrity. They are devoted to their family, friends and their community. Folks should not generalize about SEIU. Working for the union is like any other profession. You have good hardworking, dedicated, nose to the grind people and you may also find some mediocrity from time to time. Name a profession where that is not true. As for Mr. Cox's comments that the negotiating team were acting like children, if trying to hold this Board and CAO Mr. Rousseau accountable for their ongoing excessive acts of executive compensation is acting like children, then I am guilty as charged, Mr. Cox.

Mr. Cox and other Board members had voted to give the County Administrative Officer, Jean Rousseau, a 10.6% raise in 2012 and since that time they too have received raises totaling almost 9%. How does the Board justify $250,000 life insurance policies for themselves, which equals 1/25th of the amount given to a majority of the rank-and-file? It seems that Chairman Cox and the other Board members are used to the status quo. They go on about county business with little or no accountability. Chairman Cox and other Board members need reminders - they are not members of the Royal family. It is not King Phil, Prince Pete and Sir Jean Rousseau (the CAO). They are public servants and are in the position they are in to serve the people of Tulare County. Chairman Cox and other Board members should be apologizing, and stating they will not take another raise until they offer the rank-and-file the same raise. Or is it their desire to take Tulare County down the same path as Bell, California?

Fellow board member Pete Vander Poel stated when he was running for the Board seat, "the responsibility of government is to serve the people. The individuals we elect to government offices to represent us should be in it to represent interests of their constituents and not their own." Did Board member Pete really mean this or was this just a campaign slogan?

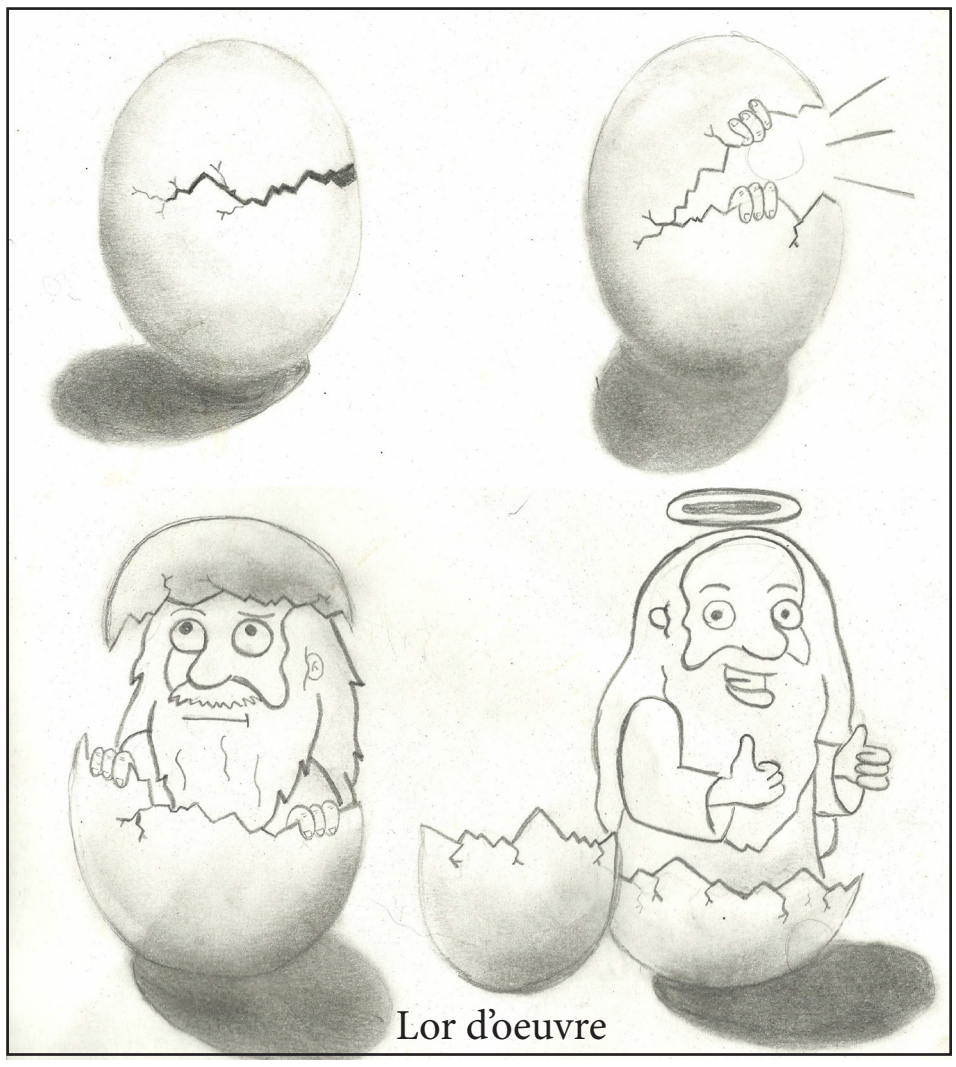
Chairman Cox, the other Board members, and the CAO Jean Rousseau are willing to draw the line for a majority of county employees to such an extent that a majority of county employees have inferior health insurance, wages, etc. to adjacent County Kings County. On the other hand, Cox and the rest of the BOS and their anointed CAO in Tulare County are obsessed with making sure their own compensation package is far superior to the BOS in Kings County. What is wrong with this picture? If you can't change, Tulare County deserves better.

We the People deserve better from our Board of Supervisors and we will keeping reminding them of what their roles and responsibilities are until they "get it" or they "get out." The ball is in your court, King Cox.

Kermit Wullschleger - husband, father of three, Tulare County Employee since 1989, and member of The Catholic Church of Visalia

Apéritif

Mercedes Oldenbourg



Lor d'oeuvre

Veteran's Corner

Presidential Memorial Certificate Honors Memory of Deceased Veterans

Joe Wright

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans. This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents.

Statutory authority for the program is Section 112, Title 38, of the United States Code. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the PMC program by preparing the certificates which bear the current President's signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces.

Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased veterans. More than one certificate may be provided. Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail or toll-free fax. Requests cannot be sent via email. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the veteran's discharge and death certificate to verify eligibility, as the request cannot be processed without proof of honorable military service. Please submit copies only, as original documents will not be returned.

If you requested a PMC more than 16 weeks ago and have not received it, please call (202) 565-4964 to find out the status of your request. Please do not send a second application unless requested to do so. You can find more information on this program at www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp. Our office can also assist with applications for a certificate.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office issues Veteran ID cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veterans' information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230; call 852-2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.

Online Comments

Comment at ourvalleyvoice.com or fb.me/ourvalleyvoice

"We, the Union are working people standing together. When working people stand together to bargain for fair wages and decent benefits, California's communities get stronger. It's time to restore some balance between management and working people, starting with making sure workers have a voice and a seat at the table.
Jo Ann Juarez-Salazar, SEIU 521 Chief Negotiator"

— Jo Ann Juarez-Salazar,** on **Putting Community First

Drought Leaves South Valley in the Dust

Nancy Vigran

Dust is a problem in the Valley almost any summer, with our little-to-no rain and long hot days. But in this drought year, the problem is made worse with so much land sitting dry and unused, both agriculturally and residentially.

Along with exhaust fumes and wildfire smoke, dust contributes to poor air quality in the Valley. It contributes to the particulate matter, and adds to air pollution.

"We are definitely seeing an affect on air quality because of the dust from the drought with so much land lying idle," said Jamie Holt, chief communications officer for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

It isn't just the idle agricultural land, but also the many lawns that are drying up and not watered, all adding to potential dust and particulate matter in the air, she said.

Dust, along with any other type of air pollutant, affects not only those with respiratory problems, but makes for unhealthy air quality for everyone, she added.

In Kings County, more than 200,000 acres of potential row cropland is not being utilized this year, said Diane Friend, executive director of the Kings County Farm Bureau. This is about 30% of farmland that would usually be planted with tomatoes, cabbage, garlic and onions, she said, adding that this land could produce more dust than the caring or harvesting of its usual crops.

Harvesting contributes to dust and air quality, and cotton and nut harvesting is scheduled to begin in the next couple of weeks.

Nut harvesting can be pretty bad no matter what the weather, said Elizabeth Fichtner, a University of California Cooperative Education farm advisor.

During harvesting, almonds and walnuts are shaken to the ground. Walnuts are immediately swept up from the floor of the grove by machines, while almonds sit for a few days before sweeping. Pistachios are also shaken, but into baskets for retrieval. All this shaking and sweeping can produce a lot of dust.

But, even if there were abundant water available, the ground would need to be dry for harvest. Moisture during harvest can cause major problems including mold, Fichtner said.

Harvesting aside, farmers have found alternate ways from water to help control dust problems.

"Some walnut growers are using crushed walnut shells on their farm roads to help keep the dust down," Fichtner said.

And many growers of many different types of crops are looking at other alternatives such as an organic byproduct of salt, or magnesium chloride, called Dust-Off, said Gene Telese, marketing director for American Ag, which works throughout the southern area of the Valley.

Many farmers, who might have used water tankers in the past for dust control on roadways, are utilizing this alternative.

A truck applies magnesium chloride on a road along crops in the South Valley to capture moisture from the air for dust control. Photo courtesy of American Ag.

"Let's just say it's been a very, very busy year," Telese said.

The key is in the preparation of the area to be treated, he said. The product cannot be allowed to touch plants as it could potentially burn them during the application process itself. However, it dries quickly, within a day, so roads can be put back into use fast. And, it lasts for about three months, he added.

While oil is another possibility, it takes a long time to dry, up to 15 days or more. This means the roads must be idle during that time, Telese said.

Of course, when the air is idle, dust is not as much of a potential problem. For the past couple of months, it seems there has been a bit more wind, than average, said Brian Ochs, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Hanford.

"It is just my perception, that is has been a little more windy," he said.

But, forecasts show "primarily high pressure for the rest of this month," he noted, "which is more typical of what mid-summer brings, with little wind."

With the air quiet, it is highly doubtful that there will be any one dust storm of any high magnitude. But it is best to remain mindful of the air quality, especially for those with any sensitivities or respiratory issues.

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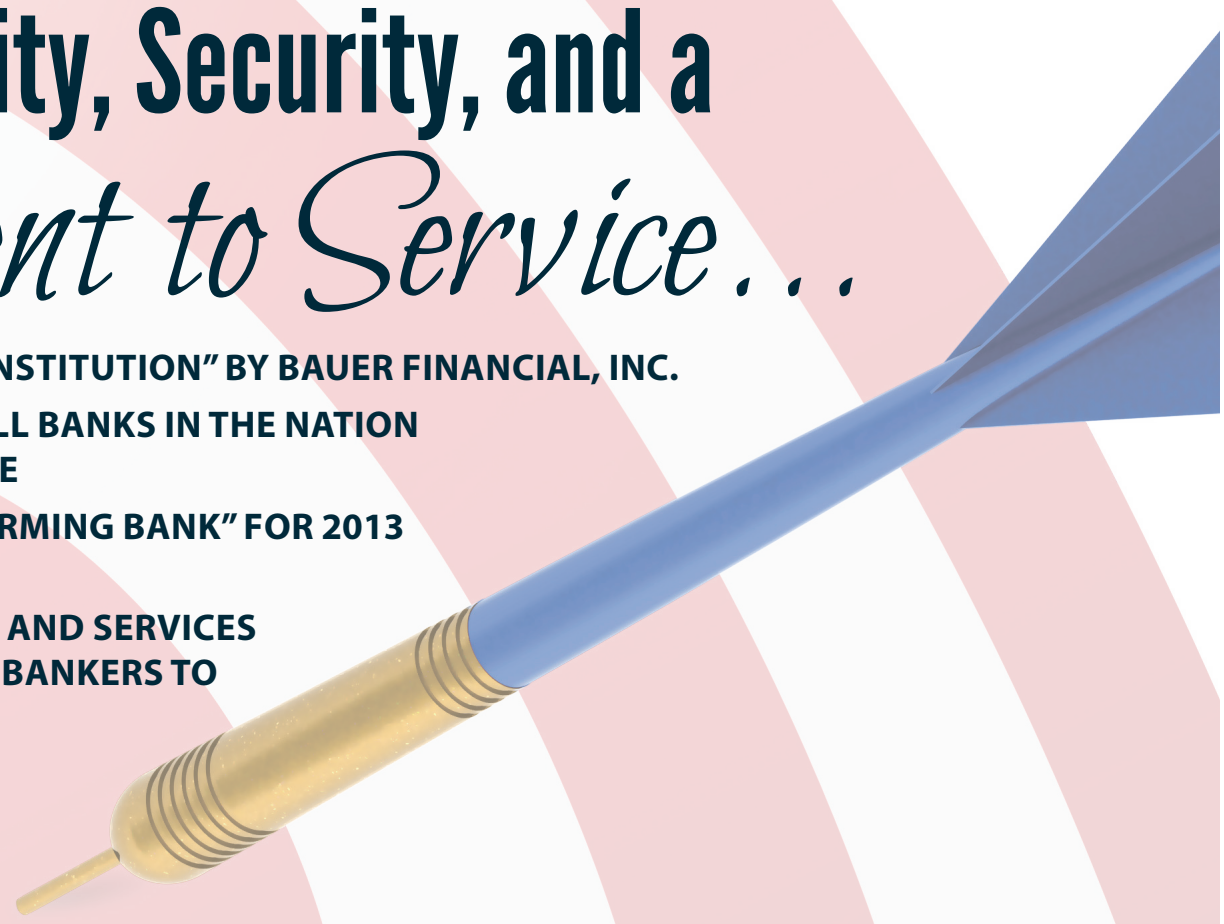

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Valley Voice
Valley Scene

Frampton's Guitar Circus to Perform at Visalia's Oval Park on Friday, August 29th

Staff Reports

Following a massive year of touring, including 2013's inaugural Frampton's Guitar Circus, Peter Frampton is back on the road. This time, Frampton has set out on a three-part, catchall tour including select solo dates and the return of Frampton's Guitar Circus, which hits Visalia on Friday, August 29th.

This year's incarnation of Frampton's Circus features legendary blues artist Buddy Guy and Randy Bachman, founder and guitarist of The Guess Who and Bachman-Turner Overdrive.

For locals, it's easy to assume the likes of Frampton, Guy and Bachman would take the stage at the historic Visalia Fox Theatre or the Convention Center, but they would be wrong. This concert will happen at an unlikely location – Oval Park. For decades, Oval Park has been more commonly referred to as "The Oval" which is widely considered as Visalia's "ground zero" for homelessness.

In 2011, the City of Visalia recruited the Visalia Rescue Mission to help revitalize the park and the surrounding neighborhood. Ryan Stillwater is a longtime Visalia resident and the coordinator for efforts at the park.

Peter Frampton, Buddy Guy and Randy Bachman

"We're approaching the project from the inside-out by promoting the neighborhood's current assets and potential, and from the outside-in by using the park as a magnet for the community at-large," he said. "Concerts like this are just the ticket to get the community involved."

Frampton's resume is as long as his guitar solos. A Grammy Award-winner, he remains one of the most celebrated artists and guitarists in rock history. At 16, he was lead singer and guitarist for British band The Herd. At 18, he co-founded one of the first supergroups, seminal rock act Humble Pie. His session work includes collaborations with such legendary artists as George Harrison, Harry Nilsson, David Bowie, Jerry Lee Lewis, Ringo Starr and John Entwistle. His fifth solo album, the electrifying *Frampton Comes Alive!*, is one of the top-selling live records of all time.

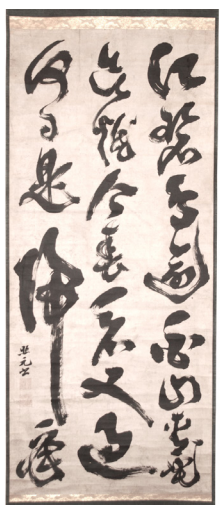
FRAMPTON continued on **23 »**

Clark Center Exhibition to Feature Japanese Calligraphy

Staff Reports

Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture in Hanford will present "33 Dances:

Japanese Calligraphy from the 16th to the 19th Century," an exhibition organized under the auspices of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, from September 2 to December 6.



Sasaki Shogen (mid-17th-early 18th century)

"33 Dances" focuses on artwork from the Momoyama and Edo periods (1568-1868), when Japan was ruled by powerful shogun, peace and prosperity prevailed and the arts flourished under expanded patronage. Calligraphy was revitalized, practiced by classical and Chinese-style poets, Confucian scholars, literati artists, Zen monks and devotees of courtly *waka* poetry, and *haiku*. Within this historical and cultural context, the exhibition focuses on the works as individual dances of line and form in space.

This exhibition is an homage to Dr. Stephen Addiss, emeritus professor at the University of Virginia, Richmond, and draws solely from the calligraphy collection he donated to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in 2013. "77 Dances" commenced in 2006 and was held at four venues: the

CALLIGRAPHY continued on **23 »**

Cultural Organizations to Celebrate 150th Anniversary of Visalia's Incorporation

Staff Reports

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of incorporation of the City of Visalia, the Arts Consortium has partnered with the Tulare County Museum, Visalia Rescue Mission at Oval Park, Main Gallery Group and the Urbanists Collective for a special event celebrating the rich and vibrant culture of our city.

On Saturday, August 23, from 10am to noon, members of the community are invited to gather at the Tulare County Museum at Mooney Grove Park (27000 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia) to celebrate who we were, who we are, and who we might become with the event, "History in the Making."

Resident musicians featured on *The Oval Park Compilation* CD will perform live music, while members of the historical society offer museum tours and stories of the city's past. In the gallery, artwork created by the Main Gallery Group will be on display while participating artists talk with the community about the inspiration behind their work.

Participating artists include: Jeri

ARTS continued on **22 »**

The Tulare County Symphony's annual Pops concert at Zumwalt Park in Tulare has become a popular event.

Tulare County Symphony Kicks Off Season with Pops Concert

Donna Orozco

The Tulare County Symphony will open its 2014-15 season with the traditional "Pops" concert under the stars on Saturday, September 6, at Zumwalt Park in Tulare. Gates open at 5pm for early birds bringing a picnic with them. The concert begins at 8pm.

Music on the program includes highlights from "West Side Story," a medley of "007" tunes, Broadway, Americana and marches.

In addition, Music Director Bruce Kiesling will spotlight lighter fare by such composers as Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Beethoven to give a preview of the type of music coming up during this year's concerts.

Last year, children in the audience were invited to come up and help conduct a piece. This was such a success that it will be repeated this year.

The Pops is the most kid-friendly concert the symphony offers, with picnic areas and a park area where kids can run around, according to Kiesling. Plus it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young people to conduct a live symphony orchestra.

The emphasis on kid-friendly activities is part of the symphony's plan to increase awareness of its youth music programs and the role that exposure to the arts plays in student success, according to new Executive Director Juliette De Campos. She joined the symphony staff last month and immediately went to work seeking funding to expand the youth education program into more rural school districts.

Many groups who bring picnics to the concert enjoy including special table settings and are encouraged to have fun creating their own outdoor oasis from which to enjoy the concert.

Tickets are $20 for adults and free for youth 12 and under with a paid adult. Up-front tables are $250. For tickets or more information, call the symphony at 732-8600 or go to www.tularecountysymphony.org.

Brothers Show Paintings at Brandon-Mitchell Gallery

Donna Orozco

Casey and Ryan Supple, brothers who are students at College of the Sequoias, will open their art exhibit at the Brandon-Mitchell Gallery in the Spiritual Awareness Center on Friday, September 5, from 5:30-8pm as part of the First Friday art walk in Downtown Visalia.

Casey, 20, became interested in art in his early teens when he read a biography of a famous modern illusionist who created surrealist depictions in the style of Salvador Dali.

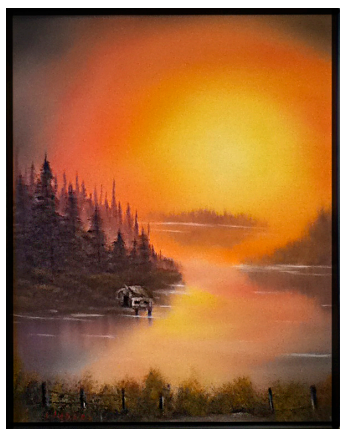
"I had never painted in my life, so I had no idea what to expect," he said. "At first, it was a struggle, and there was a lot of frustration. However, after much research, I gained a plentiful amount of artistic knowledge through books and television, as provided through the wisdom of various accomplished and inspiring artists."

Casey began experimenting with oil and acrylic in paintings that show the richness and beauty of nature. After he became more proficient, he began to draw using graphite, charcoal and pastels. He has won awards at the Tulare County Fair, Springville Art Show and Lindsay Art Show.

"After The Snowfall" by Ryan Supple

He says he seeks to incorporate a wide variety of personally inspiring thoughts and ideas into his work, many of which emerged from an eclectic amount of emotions, as well as conscious and unconscious inspirations.

Ryan's love of art also began in his early teenage years when he became inspired by comic books and manga, the Japanese form of American comics, with their well-endowed female heroes and fascinating storylines. In 2009, he discovered Bob Ross and was amazed by his ability to create finished oil paintings in only 30 minutes.



"Last of Light" by Casey Supple

"I eventually tapped into the world of traditional painting after first setting eyes on the astonishing works of Thomas Kinkade," said Ryan. "This man's paintings infused in the perfect images of light and shadow with dream-like landscape scenes to match drove me into a new fascination with traditional painting, which I began working on in the acrylic medium."

Ryan, 19, has won several awards at the Tulare County Fair for his acrylic landscape paintings, which is his main focus. Recently, he has begun working with the female figure as well as medieval European cityscapes. He says his goal is to "evoke fond memories from the viewers of my paintings, and demonstrate the beauty of nature as created by God and as seen through my eyes."

The show will be on display through September.

The Brandon-Mitchell Gallery is located in the Spiritual Awareness Center, 117 S. Locust, Visalia (one block south of Main Street). It will be open for the September 5 and October 3 First Friday art walks from 5:30-8pm and by appointment. Call 625-2441 or visit www.spiritualawarenesscenter.com.

Josh Talbott's "Toy" series will be on display at the Jon Ginsburg Gallery.

Jon Ginsburg Gallery to Present 'The Real Thing'

Staff Reports

The Jon Ginsburg Gallery, 410 E. Race Ave. in Visalia, will present "The Real Thing," showcasing the work of Josh Talbott, from September 3 through October 31.

Before settling into his modest home in Los Osos about five years ago, Talbott traveled from Georgia to New Orleans to L.A. A self-taught artist, he fine-tuned his skills by learning from a group of artists selling their work on the streets in New Orleans. Those artists became life-long friends and influences.

While in New Orleans, Talbott started painting his "Toy" series and found they were moneymakers. When Katrina hit, he lost everything and made his way to Los Angeles, landing shows at The Hive Gallery and Edgar Varela Fine Arts. He also painted movie sets and murals.

The opening reception will be held on Friday, September 5, from 6-8pm. To see the exhibition, check in at the Creative Center office at 606 N. Bridge, weekdays 10am-3pm, or call 733-9329. The Creative Center is a non-profit community arts center for adults with developmental disabilities.

'Images Near and Far' at Sue Sa's Clubhouse

Staff Reports

Once again, the art on the menu changes at Sue Sa's Clubhouse as Linda Hengst and Jeri Burzin exhibit their newest work through October. Hengst works in many mediums, including watercolor and oil, and Burzin uses a digital camera to make images, as well as integrate her photos with acrylic paint on canvas.

Linda Hengst's work will be on display at Sue Sa's Clubhouse.

An artists' reception will be held during First Friday on September 5, from 6-8pm. Refreshments will be served and both artists will have prints and cards available for purchase.

Sue Sa's clubhouse is located at 699 W. Center St. in Visalia. For more information, visit maingalleryvisalia.com.

Briefs & Shorts

Oktoberfest 2014, sponsored by the **Visalia Chamber of Commerce** and held from 5:30-9:30pm on Thursday, October 2, will be at the annual event's new location: **Vossler Farms,** 26773 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia. The event will feature live entertainment provided by **Das Polka Dots, 5Live and Leaving Austin.**

Eagle Mountain Casino has announced that five veteran cast members of "Saturday Night Live" – **Rob Schneider, Jon Lovitz, Horatio Sanz, Tim Meadows** and **Chris Kattan** – will perform there on October 18.

The **Kings County Farm Bureau's Annual Gala** will be held on Friday, October 17, in the Olympic Room at the **Kings Fairgrounds**. Tickets are $100 per person and can be purchased from any KCFB board member, from the office at 870 Greenfield Ave. in Hanford, or online at www.kcfb.org/gala.

If you still plan to squeeze one last getaway to **Sequoia National Park** this summer, please be aware that the **Sequoia Shuttle**, which provides round-trip transportation to the big trees for only $15, and includes park entry fees, ends its 2014 service on September 1.

Engelbert Humperdinck to Headline Tachi Palace on August 28th

Engelbert Humperdinck, who has recorded everything from romantic ballads to the platinum-selling theme song "Lesbian Seagull" for a Beavis and Butthead movie, will headline a 7:30pm show at Tachi Palace in Lemoore on Thursday, August 28.

Engelbert Humperdinck

Humperdinck, whose stage name comes from the 19th century Austrian composer who wrote "Hansel & Gretel," has sold more than 150 million records. His hits include: "(Please) Release Me," "After the Lovin," "Spanish Eyes," "The Last Waltz," "Am I that Easy to Forget?" "There Goes My Everything," "Can't Take My Eyes off You" and "Quando, Quando, Quando." He earned four Grammy nominations, a Golden Globe for "Entertainer of the Year" in 1988, 63 gold and 24 platinum records, and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Several of the major forces in the world of pop and rock n' roll, ranging from Jimi Hendrix to The Carpenters, started out as opening acts for Humperdinck.

Tickets ($35, $50, $70) are available at www.tachipalace.com/entertainment.php.

R.W. Hampton to Perform at Mavericks

Mavericks Coffee House will present a 7pm performance by R.W. Hampton on Friday, September 5.

R.W. Hampton

Hampton, who hails from Cimarron, New Mexico, decided many years ago he would not follow the career path of his folks, both educators, and instead work for wages in some of the big ranches in the West. His interest in warbling and plucking the guitar in the bunkhouse led him into the world of western music, where he recorded 13 albums and won many awards. He also landed several parts in cowboy movies and television westerns (and even an occasional modeling job).

For tickets ($30) or more information, call Mavericks at 624-1400, or stop by at 238 E. Caldwell Avenue, Visalia.

Mundy to Perform in Visalia on September 4th

Mundy will headline The Cellar Door in Downtown Visalia on Thursday, September 4.

Mundy

The Dublin, Ireland resident's first album, *Jelly Legs*, released in 1996, featured the song "To You I Bestow," which was also included on the soundtrack of Baz Luhrmanns' "Romeo and Juliet" movie adaptation – an album that sold more than 11 million copies worldwide. In 2002, he released *24 Star Hotel*, a multi-platinum album that includes "July," "Mexico" and "Linchpin."

His 2006 multi-platinum album, *Live and Confusion*, featured his version of Steve Earle's song "Galway Girl" with Sharon Shannon, which became the most downloaded in Ireland for two years and earned him two Meteor Awards.

Mundy is currently in the middle of mixing his sixth studio album, which is being produced by "Youth," who produced his first album. Youth also produced The Verves' *Urban Hymns* and was also Paul McCartney's sole collaborator on *The Fireman*.

Mundy performed at the White House for President Obama and Ireland's Prime Minister Enda Kenny on March 14.

Tickets for the 8pm 21+ show are $10 and available at Ticketweb.com.

Dennis Wong Memorial Race Set for September 7

The 12th annual Dennis Wong Memorial 5K Race will be held on Sunday, September 7, on Tulare's Santa Fe Trail. The event will feature an open 5-kilometer run/walk and a 1-mile kids' race.

Awards will be given to the top male and female finishers in all age categories. All entrants will receive a goodie bag, a free entry into the Tulare County Fair and post-race refreshments. Adult entrants will also receive a commemorative race T-shirt.

The race honors the memory of Dennis Wong, one of Tulare's leading citizens and runners. Last year, the race raised over $3,000 in scholarship funds for local high school students.

Race-day registration will begin at 6am at the intersection of Mooney Boulevard and the Tulare Santa Fe Trail, behind Will Tiesiera Ford. The 5K run starts at 7am, the walkers will start at 7:30am. Awards will be presented at 8am.

Entry forms are available at the Tulare City Parks and Recreation Department, 830 S. Blackstone St. in Tulare, or by e-mail at wongrun@Heiskell.com. Entry fees are $15 for young athletes and $25 for adults. Entry fees will increase by $5 for runners and walkers who enter on the day of the race.

For more information, call Scot Hillman at 685-6100.

MUSIC

Through-Aug. 29 – Rockin' the Arbor – 6-10pm
On Friday nights, Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino will present Rockin' the Arbor, featuring live music, food vendors and family activities at 300 E Street. Featured bands include: Rockville Aug. 22; and The Fabulous Enchantments Aug. 29. For information, call 924-6401.

Aug. 21, 28 – 3's A Crowd – 7-10pm
On Thursdays, 3's A Crowd performs at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Aug. 22, 25, 29, 30 – The Crawdads – 7-10pm
Every Friday and Saturday, Keith and the Crawdads perform at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Aug. 22, 25, 29, 30 – The 2nd Floor Night Club – 10pm-2am
Every Friday and Saturday, the second floor of Crawdaddys Visalia offers deejays and dancing. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Aug. 24, 31 – Sunday Jam – 7-10pm
On Sunday nights, a jam session with the Crawdad's is featured at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. Special guests and local talent have been known to sit in. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – The Crawdads with Cody Torres – 7-10pm
On Tuesdays, Cody Torres performs with the Crawdads at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Aug. 20, 27 & Sept. 4, 10, 17, 24– KJUG Country Music night – 7-10pm
Every Wednesday, David Laswell and the Rounders perform at KJUG Country Music Night at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

Aug. 21 – Built to Spill – 9pm
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Built To Spill and Slam Dunk and Warm Hair at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $20. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Aug. 22 – Tipperary Stew – 6:30-8:30pm
Tipperary Stew performs Irish and Americana music and dance every fourth Friday at 210 Cafe, 210 W. Center, Visalia. For information, call 739-9010.

Aug. 22 – Juni Fisher – 7pm
Juni Fisher will perform at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Tickets are $25. Seating is limited. For information, visit mavrickscoffeehouse.com.

Aug. 22 – Doc's Holiday– 8-10pm
Doc's Holiday will perform at Farmer's Fury, 358 West D, Lemoore. For information, visit farmersfurywines.com.

Aug. 22 – Springville Concerts in the Park – 7-9pm
Randy Deaver will perform. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and refreshments. For information, visit thecenterofspringville.com.

Aug. 22 – Man Man– 9:30pm
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Man Man and Landlady at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $13. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Aug. 23 – Light Up the Fox – 6pm
Visalia Fox will launch its fundraising campaign to restore the marquee with a concert featuring three of the top Valley bands. Leaving Austin, Motel Drive and Richfield will perform. Doors open at 6pm and music starts at 7. Tickets are $13. For tickets, call 625-1369. For information, visit foxvisalia.org.

Aug. 23 – Ronnie Nix – 8-10pm
Ronnie Nix will perform at Farmer's Fury, 358 West D, Lemoore. For information, visit farmersfurywines.com.

Aug. 28 – Engelbert Humperdinck – 7:30pm
Engelbert Humperdinck will perform at Tachi Palace. Tickets, $30-$70, available at tachipalace.com.

Aug. 29 – Peter Frampton – 7pm
Grammy-winning guitarist and songwriter Peter Frampton will be performing at Oval Park, 808 N. Court Street, Visalia as part of his world tour. Cost is $60. Tickets available at ticketfly.com/event/475193.

Aug. 29 – IslaView– 8-10pm
IslaView will perform at Farmer's Fury, 358 West D, Lemoore. For information, visit farmersfurywines.com.

Aug. 30 – Cosmonauts & L.A. Witch – 8pm
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Cosmonauts & L.A. Witch at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Must be 21. Tickets $7. For information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Sept. 4 – Mundy and Tiperary Stew – 8-10:45pm
Mundy and Tipperary Stew will perform at the Cellar Door, 101 W. Main Street, Visalia. 21+ only. Tickets, $10, available at Ticketweb.com.

Sept. 5 – Andrew J. Magnuson at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

Sept. 5 – Springville Concerts in the Park – 7-9pm
Jerry Hall will perform. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and refreshments. For information, visit thecenterofspringville.com.

Sept. 5 – R.W. Hampton – 7pm
R.W. Hampton will perform at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Tickets $30. For information, visit mavericks-coffeehouse.com.

Sept. 5 – Run4Cover – 9pm
Run4Cover will perform at the Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. 21+. Tickets, $6. Information available at cellardoor101.com.

Sept. 6 – TCSO Season Kick-Off Pops Concert – 8pm
The Tulare County Symphony will open its 2014-15 season with the traditional "Pops" concert under the stars at Zumwalt Park in Tulare. Gates open at 5pm for early birds bringing a picnic with them. The concert begins at 8pm. Tickets are $20 for adults and free for youth 12 and under with a paid adult. Up-front tables can be reserved for $250. Call 732-8600 or visit tularecountysymphony.org.

Sept. 6 – Strangelove (The Ultimate Depeche Mode Tribute) – 8-10pm
Strangelove, a Depeche Mode tribute band, will perform at the Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets at Ticketweb.com.

Sept. 10 – Canaan Smith Performs at Concerts in the Park – 7pm
Canaan Smith will perform at Hanford Civic Park. Bring blankets and lawn chairs because no seating is provided. Smith is promoting his second charted song, "Love You Like That."

Sept. 10 – Metalachi – 8pm
Metalachi will perform at the Tulare County Fair. This band is known for sombreros and extended classical violin solos sandwiched between covers of Guns 'n' Roses, Led Zeppelin and Metallica. The concert is free with paid admission. Fair tickets are $8, general admission, $5 for children 6-12. For information, visit tcfair.org.

Sept. 11 – Waddie Mitchell – 7pm
Waddie Mitchell performs at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. For information, visit mavrickscoffeehouse.com.

Sept. 11 – Morris Day and the Time – 8pm
Morris Day and the Time will perform at the Tulare County Fair. This rhythm and blues/funk ensemble is led by Morris Day, whose career began in a band with Prince. The concert is free with paid admission. For information, visit tcfair.org.

Sept. 12 – Eddie Money – 8pm
Eddie Money will perform at the Tulare County Fair. The would-be cop turned classic rocker has recorded over a dozen albums of his own as well as projects in television and film and always draws a crowd at the Tulare County Fair. The concert is free with paid admission. For information, visit tcfair.org.

Sept. 13 – Sierra Traditional Jazz Club
The High Sierra Jazz Band will perform nostalgic music as it was played in the mid-1900s at the Three Rivers Club. Tickets for concert only is $10 for non-members payable at the door. Members are free. For information, visit highsierrajazzband.com.

Sept. 13 – Visalia Concerts in the Park – 6-8pm
On the second Saturday of every month through November, Visalia Parks & Recreation present Concerts in the Park. Concerts are held at different parks throughout the city. This month's concert will be held at Sunset Park. The events are free. For information, call 713-4365.

EVENTS

Through-Aug. 29 – Rockin' the Arbor – 6-10pm
On Friday nights, Lemoore Chamber of Commerce will present Rockin' the Arbor, featuring live music, food vendors and family activities at 300 E Street. For information, call 924-6401.

Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25 – Downtown Visalia Farmers Market – 5-8pm
Every Thursday through October, the downtown Visalia Farmers market features local produce, crafts, and prepared foods, entertainment and cooking demonstrations. The market is held in downtown Visalia on Church and Main streets. For information, visit visaliafarmersmarket.com.

Aug. 21 – Hanford Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm
Fresh produce, beer garden, live band, D.J., local vendors, kids activities and theme nights are featured every Thursday night through Sept. in downtown Hanford. Randy Deaver and Crossfire will be the featured entertainment. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

Aug. 22, 29 & Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 – Lemoore Friday Night Market – 5-9pm
Every Friday night Downtown Lemoore Merchants Association hosts live music, beer garden, produce and vendors on D Street. For information, call 816-2554.

Aug. 22, 29 & Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26 – Friday Night Market and Street Faire – 5:30-10pm
Every Friday March through November, the farmers market and over 200 vendors, entertainment, crafts and family-friendly activities are held in Street Brier Plaza in Lindsay. For information, visit thelindsaychamber.com.

Aug. 22 – Rockin' the Arbor – 6-10pm
Rockville will perform at Rockin' the Arbor in Downtown Lemoore, 300 E St. Food vendors, beer and wine garden and more are featured. For information, call 924-6401.

Aug. 23, 30 & Sept. 8, 13, 20, 27 – Visalia Farmers Market – 8-11:30pm
Open year around, the market, corner of S. Mooney and W. Caldwell, offers fresh local produce, cooking demonstrations and entertainment every Saturday. For information, visit visaliafarmersmarket.com.

Aug. 23 & 30 Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 – Springville Farmers Market – 8am-12pm
The Springville Farmers Market is held year round every Saturday, weather permitting, in downtown Springville. On the first Saturday, additional artisans are featured. On the third Saturday there is a flea market. For information, call 539-1020.

Aug. 23 – Central Valley Throwdown & Expo - 8am-9pm
The first Annual Central Valley Throwdown and Expo will be held at the Visalia Convention Center. For information, visit facebook.com/centralvalleythrowdown.

EVENT CALENDAR

Aug. 23 – Wanted! Wild West Casino Night – 6-10pm
Tulare County Association of Realtors presents an evening of card playing, dancing, and more at Visalia Elks Lodge. Prizes will be awarded for the best-dressed cowboys and ladies. Proceeds till benefit local non-profits. Cost is $25 in advance, $35 on the day of the event. For tickets and information, call 627-1776.

Aug. 23-24, 30-31 & Sept. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 – Exeter Museum and Courthouse Gallery – 10-4pm
Exeter Museum and Courthouse Gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays for tours at 125 South B Street. For information, visit exeterhistoricalmuseum.com.

Aug. 23 – Micro Sprints – 5pm
The best Micro Sprint drivers in the nation will face off at Lemoore Raceway, 1750 Hwy 41. For information, visit lemooreraceway.com.

Aug. 23 – 6th Annual Brewfest – 5-9pm
The Lemoore Lions Club will hold its 6th Annual Brewfest at Lemoore Lions Club Park, corner of Fox Street and Fallenleaf Drive. Tickets are $35, which includes entertainment and unlimited sausage sampling. Additional food and wine sampling and soda and water will also be included. Designated-driver tickets are available for $20 each and includes everything except alcohol tasting. For tickets and information call 707-0435 or 707-7499.

Aug. 23 – 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act
Sequoia and Kings Canyon will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, featuring book signing, exhibits, guest seminars, living history and ranger programs. For information, visit visitsequoia.com.

Aug. 23 – 150th Anniversary of Visalia – 10am-12pm
In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the incorporation for the City of Visalia, the Arts Consortium has partnered with the Tulare County Museum, Visalia Rescue Mission at Oval Park, Main Gallery Group, and the Urbanists Collective to present History in the Making at Tulare County Museum at Mooney Grove Park, 270000 S Mooney Blvd. Live music, museum tours and special exhibits will be featured. Lunch will be provided free for the first 100 guests, courtesy of Taylor Bros Hot Dog Stand. A suggested minimum donation of $5 will help support collections and programming at the Tulare County Museum. For information, visit artsconsortium.org.

Aug. 26 – Hilti Visalia Service Center Grand Opening – 8:30-10:45am
The Visalia Chamber of Commerce will host a grand opening and ribbon cutting at Hilti Visalia Service Center, 10337 W. Goshen Ave. For information, visit visaliachamber.org.

Aug. 26 – Business After Hours – 5:30-7:30pm
The Visalia Chamber Business After Hours program will be held at Suncrest Bank, 400 W. Center Ave. For information, visit visaliachamber.org.

Aug. 27 – Scarecrow Kick-off – 5:30pm
The Exeter Chamber of Commerce will be having its Scarecrow Contest through the entire month of October. To start off the event the chamber will host a Kick-off meeting to share any ideas and answer questions. For information, visit exeterchamber.com.

Aug. 28 – Ribbon Cutting Bulldog RV Storage – 10-11am
Visalia Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting at 1010 E. Douglas Ave. For information, visit rvstoragevisalia.com.

Aug. 28 – South Valley Real Estate Ribbon Cutting – 12pm
The Lemoore Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting for South Valley Real Estate at 130 East Hanford-Armona Rd., Ste. D. For information, call 345-4733.

Aug. 28 – Hanford Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm
Fresh produce, beer garden, live band, D.J., local vendors, kids activities and theme nights are featured every Thursday night through Sept. in downtown Hanford. Monsanto will be the featured entertainment. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

Aug. 28 – Getting to Know…Tim Ward - 6-7:45pm
The Visalia Branch Library with host District Attorney Tim Ward as part of its Getting to Know series. The program is free. For information, call 713-2707.

Aug. 28 – Farmers Fury Party Bus to Visalia Raw Hide - 6-10pm
Farmer's Fury will provide transportation to Visalia Rawhide Fan Appreciation Night. Cost is $50 for round trip bus, entrance to ballpark and Hall of Fame Club. For information, visit farmersfurywines.com

Aug. 29 – The Power of Giving – 7:30-9am
The United Way of Tulare County and Ruiz Foods will hold a community recognition breakfast at Visalia Holiday Inn, 9000 W. Airport Drive. For information, visit unitedwaytc.org.

Aug. 29 - Rockin' the Arbor - 6-10pm
The Fabulous Enchantments will close out Lemoore's Rockin' the Arbor season at the Arbor, 300 E St., Lemoore. Food vendors, beer and wine garden and more are featured. For information, call 924-6401.

Aug. 29 - 559 Fights 28 Live MMA Cage Fights – 7pm
559 Fights #28 returns to Visalia Recreation Ballpark. VIP Tables/Seating available by calling 813-0307. Tickets $20 general admission, $40 cage side, $60 Front Row. Tickets available at Tickefly.com.

Aug. 30-31 – Santa Rosa Rancheria Pow Wow – 10am
The 14th Annual SRR Pow Wow will be held at Tachi Palace in Lemoore. Admission is free. Lawn chairs and coolers are allowed but will be inspected at entrance. Glass bottles and alcohol are prohibited.

Aug. 30 – Saturday Nite Fights – 3pm
The Northside Boxing Club of Visalia will be hosting its biannual youth amateur boxing event "SNF:56" also known as "Saturday Nite Fights" at the Wittman Community Center, 315 W. Pearl St., Visalia. The event is sanctioned by Central California USA Boxing. Admission is $15. For information, call 733-5423.

Aug. 30 – Lucha Xtreme – 7pm
Lucha Xtreme Wrestling Entertainment will be at the Civic Center Auditorium in Hanford. A live TV taping of the hit TV show "Lucha Xtreme" will be held. Tickets start at $10, and VIP Fan Access tickets are priced at $25. Those ticket holders can enter the venue a half hour early for a meet-and-greet with some of the top LuchaStars and to pick out their seats. For information, visit luchaxtreme.com.

Sept. 2 – Women in Business – 11:30-1:30pm
The Exeter Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Women in Business Series, a networking opportunity for women in business at the East Meets West Restaurant, 224 N. Kaweah Ave. For information, visit ExeterChamber.com.

Sept. 4 – JDA Job Fair – 9am-2pm
Kings County Developers Association will host a Job Fair at the Hanford Civic Auditorium, 400 N. Douty St. For information contact dawn.head@co.kings.ca.us or jamesbradford@edd.ca.gov.

Sept. 4 – 9th Annual Making a Difference for Life Fundraising Banquet – 7pm
Former presidential candidate and U.S. Senator Rick Santorum will speak at Tulare-Kings Right to Life's 19th Annual Making a Difference for Life Fundraising Banquet at the Visalia Convention Center. Sponsorships for a table of 8 are $560; individual tickets may be purchased for $75. For information or to reserve a table, call 732-5000 or visit tkrl.org.

THEATER

Aug. 22, 23 & 24 – 'Bonnie & Clyde: A New Musical'
"Bonnie & Clyde" runs at the Ice House Theater in Visalia. Performances are at 7:30pm on August 22 and 23, and 2pm on August 24. For tickets, visit www.visaliaplayers.org or the "Visalia Community Players" Facebook page, or call 734-3900.

Aug. 22 - Sept. 7 – Nunsense – 7:30-10pm
The Barn Theater in Porterville presents "Nunsense," the hilarious musical about the Little Sisters of Hoboken who are trying to raise enough money to bury the sisters who died from tainted soup. For information, visit barntheater.porterville.com.

Aug. 23 – Jewish Film Festival – 7pm
A free showing of "When Jews were Funny" will be aired at Congregation Beit Shalom, 115 E. Paseo Ave., Visalia. Donations are appreciated. The Social Action Project will be collecting buttons to complete its Holocaust memorial project. For information, visit beitshalomvisalia.com.

Aug. 26 – Independent Film Series – 6-7:45pm
Visalia Branch Library's selection is "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?" In this madcap and lighthearted comedic romp, introverted optometrist Weichung begins to question his marriage with his wife Feng, upon learning of her desire to have another baby. (Mandarin with English subtitles.)

ART

Through Aug. 29 – "Beauty Runs in the Family" – 10am-3pm
The Creative Center's Jon Ginsburg Gallery is hosting a mother and daughter show featuring works by Milli and Lesli Pepper. For a tour of the gallery, call 733-9329, or visit the Creative Center office at 606 N. Bridge, Visalia.

Through Aug. 29 – Young at Art Exhibit – 12-5:30pm
Arts Visalia will exhibit the works of art by children and youth of its Summer Art Programs. Admission is free. For information, visit artsvisalia.org.

Through Aug. 31 – Betty Berk Artist Reception
Artist Betty Berk is now showing a retrospective of her still life paintings at Michael's Custom Jewelry, 316 W Main St., Visalia. An Artist Reception will be held during First Friday, the multi-sensory entertainment crawl in downtown Visalia. For information, visit bettyberk.com.

Through Aug. 31 – Visalia Visual Chronicle – 5:30-8pm
The Visalia Visual Chronicle, art by various artists depicting Visalia, is on display at the Brandon-Mitchell Gallery through August 31. The gallery is located in the Spiritual Awareness Center at 117 S. Locust, Visalia (one block south of Main Street). The gallery will be open by appointment, call 625-2441.

Through Sept. 23 – Dal Henderson Exhibit
A collection of works by artist Dal Henderson will be hosted by the Kings Art Center. The exhibit will be held Aug. 10-Sept. 23. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

Aug. 21 – Ladies Night at Clay Café – 6-10pm
Clay Café, 225 E. Main St. Visalia, hosts Ladies Night with complimentary dinner and beverage included with a studio fee of $10. For reservations, call 733-2022.

Aug. 21 & 28 – Purls of Wisdom – 6-8pm
Every Thursday the knitting group meets at Three Rivers Library Branch, 42052 Eggers Drive. For information, visit tularecountylibrary.org.

Aug. 23 – Beauty Runs in the Family Exhibit Open House – 1-3pm
The Jon Ginsburg Gallery is hosting an Open House for the "Beauty Runs in the Family, the Art of Milli and Lesli Pepper." The gallery, located at 410 E. Race Ave. in Visalia, will be offering some of Milli's unframed pieces at discounted prices. This may be the last time to buy one of her watercolors in the Valley.

Aug. 27 & Sept. 10, 24 – Crafty Corner: Knit and Crochet Group – 10:30am-12pm
Learn and practice fiber arts with other like-minded people. The group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at Visalia Branch Library. Information, call 713-2703.

Sept. 3 – That Extra Dimension 2014 Reception – 6-8pm
An Invitational Sculpture and Functional Art Exhibition will be featured at Arts Visalia Sept. 3-26. A opening reception will celebrate the work of artists of the Central California region who are known for their 3D or sculptural creations. The event, at 214 E. Oak Ave., is free. For information, visit artsvisalia.org.

Sept. 5 – Porterville Art Walk – 5-8pm
On the first Friday of each month a free self-guided tour of local artisans, galleries, art studios, museums and alternative art venues are featured. For information, visit portervilleartwalk.org.

See more events online ourvalleyvoice.com

Summer Jubilee on Track to Raise over $100,000

Summer Jubilee, a fundraiser for Tulare Hospital Foundation will be held Saturday, August 23, at Kumar/Gupta Tulare Estate. The event is presented by Katye and Manuel Mancebo. Major sponsors include Healthcare Conglomerate Associates and Kluger Architects. The generosity of 50-plus sponsors puts this year's event on track to raise more than $100,000.

Proceeds are used to enhance medical services and patient care at Tulare Regional Medical Center. Last month, Tulare Hospital Foundation purchased patient beds for the Intensive Care Unit. The eight beds, specifically designed for the unpredictable and urgent needs of patients in the Intensive Care Unit, cost the Foundation nearly $93,000.

"Improving our hospital is why the foundation was established more than 25 years ago," said Mary Jane Barwick, Tulare Hospital Foundation chairman. "I am very excited we have such a committed and talented group of volunteers."

The volunteer planning committee, co-chaired by Eric Ferreira and Scott Daley, has created a one-of-a-kind event. "Hollywood Glam," the event theme, is the committee's version of Hollywood's last party of the summer – where jubilee guests are the "stars."

An estimated 1,000 attendees will be treated to tastes from more than 40 featured restaurants, wineries, breweries and distributors from 7-9pm. Guests can also participate in bidding on silent auction items and purchase raffle tickets for an opportunity to win jewelry donated by Quality Jewelers. After the tasting, the casino-style gaming begins, including video horse racing and dancing to the DJ Sounds of Sparkee Markee.

Individual tickets are $50 and available at www.TulareRegional.org/SummerJubilee or by calling 685-3448.

Barn Theater to Present 'Nunsense'

"Nunsense," which opens at The Barn Theater in Porterville next week, had one of the more unusual beginnings of any play – it began as a line of greeting cards.

Playwright Dan Goggin created a line of cards featuring actress Marilyn Farina dressed as a nun. When Farina took to making appearances in costume at card stores and the like to promote the card line, Goggin began writing material for her to use. This evolved into a 15-minute stage act called "The Nunsense Story," which included many nuns, as well as monks. It ran for nearly 40 performances at the Duplex, a Greenwich Village club. From there, Goggin rewrote the piece as a full-length musical, eliminating the monks altogether and focusing instead on five nuns.

The Little Sisters of Hoboken are in a deadly bind. Sister Julia, Child of God, the chef, accidentally killed 52 nuns with her tainted vichyssoise soup. Luckily, 17 nuns were out playing bingo and were spared from the poisoned broth. Unfortunately, the surviving sisters only had funds to bury 48 of the 52 stiff sisters. So they're holding the remaining four nuns in the freezer, hoping to raise enough money for the burials before the health inspector catches up with them.

Directed by Gordy Plaisted, "Nunsense" features Kim Day as Reverend Mother, Margeaux Boyd as Sister Hubert, Wendy Plaisted as Sister Amnesia, Denise Everhart as Sister Robert Ann, and Ginger Piersol as Sister Leo.

Evening performances are scheduled for August 22, 23, 29 and 30, and September 5 and 6. Sunday matinees will be August 24 and 31, and September 7. For tickets or more information, visit http://barntheater.porterville.com.

Saturday Nite Fights Set for August 30th

The Northside Boxing Club of Visalia will host its biannual youth amateur boxing event "SNF:56," also known as "Saturday Nite Fights," on August 30, starting at 3pm at the Wittman Community Center, 315 W. Pearl St., Visalia. The event is sanctioned by Central California USA Boxing.

Local amateur boxing clubs from throughout the Valley will be visiting to compete. An estimated 15 live bouts will be showcased at the event. Entertainment will be provided during intermission.

Admission is $15 for adults, and children under five years of age are admitted free. For more information on attending or sponsorship opportunities, call Coach Jesus Gamboa at 733-5423.

The Northside Boxing Club has been around for more than three decades, giving the youth of Visalia a proven delinquency deterrent and an alternative to gang influence.

Arts

Continued from p. 17

Burzin, Deb Nolan, Linda Hengst, Betty Berk, Toni Best, Laurie Gorman, Joy Collier, Ginny Wilson and Beckie Nova. Erik Gonzalez of the Urbanists Collective, a local grassroots organization dedicated to creating social change through art, will also be present, encouraging event attendees to make their mark on history by contributing to a community art piece, which the Arts Consortium hopes to display for months to come.

Free lunch will be provided to the first 100 guests, courtesy of the popular local eatery, Taylor Bros Hot Dog Stand. Additional snacks and refreshments, as well as *The Oval Park Compilation* album, original works of art, and various historical reference items will also be available for purchase.

A suggested minimum donation of $5 will help support collections and programming at the Tulare County Museum.

COMMUNITY

Through Sept. 19 – Chronic Disease
Self-Management Classes – 10am-12pm
Every Friday, chronic disease self-management classes are offered for adults with ongoing health conditions like arthritis, heart disease, depression and high blood pressure. Friends, family members and caregivers are also welcome. The classes will be held at the Visalia Health Care Center, 2611 N. Dinuba Blvd. For information, call 624-8486.

Through Oct. 11 – Kiwanis Maserati Raffle
The Kiwanis Club of Exeter Foundation is raffling a 1986 Chrysler RC Convertible by Maserati to raise funds for the Schroth Park playground. Drawing will be held at the Exeter Fall Festival Oct. 11. Tickets, $35 each or 3 for $100, are available at ABC Bookkeeping and Tax Services, Nielsen & Associates Insurance Agency and the Exeter Chamber of Commerce.

Aug. 21, 28 – eBook One-on-One - 5:30–6:30pm
Tulare Public Library will offer a computer class Thursdays on using Overdrive, one of the library's software databases, to select and download eBooks. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

Aug. 21 – Discover Vietnam & Cambodia Trip Deadline
The Visalia Chamber of Commerce "Discover Vietnam and Cambodia" trip will include 10 days with an optional two-day Ha Long Bay Overnight Cruise Nov. 3-12. The cost of the tour is $3,249 per person and includes round trip airfare from LAX as well as 12 meals. For information, call 734-5876.

Aug. 21-22 – Accountempts Suit Drive
Robert Half's annual Suit Drive will benefit the Visalia Rescue Mission to help job seekers with interview-appropriate attire. Gently used articles for men and women can be dropped off at Accountemps, 100 Willow Plaza, Suite 401, Visalia. Call Beth Bruegman at 733-0766 for more information or if you would like to have your donations picked up.

Aug. 21 – Introduction to Excel – 10am-12pm
The Visalia Branch Library will offer a basic introduction to the Excel spreadsheet. To register for the class, call 713-2713.

Aug. 21 – Arthritis and Exercise Seminar – 6-7pm
Kaweah Delta Health Care District hosts a free seminar on arthritis and exercise at The Lifestyle Center, 5105 W. Cypress Ave. Speakers: Dr. Donald Schengel, a local orthopedic surgeon, and Rocky Cisneros, a doctor of physical therapy with Therapy Specialists, a division of Kaweah Delta Health Care District. For information, call 624-5985.

Aug. 21 – Visalia Philatelic Society Auction – 6:15pm
Visalia Philatelic Society will meet at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church, 1111 S. Conyer St. Doors open at 6:15pm for bidders to examine auction items. The meeting begins at 7pm with the auction starting at 7:30pm. A raffle is held during each auction. For information, call 686-5067 or 734-6353.

Aug. 23 – Guide to Understanding Acupuncture – 10am
The Center for Integrated Medicine will present information on acupuncture at 725 W. Main St., Visalia. Cost is $15. There is no charge for current patients. For information, call 625-4246.

Aug. 27 & Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 – Medicare Extra Help – 1-4pm
Every Wednesday, Tulare Senior Center offers free counseling for medicare beneficiaries. Help with prescription plans, claims, appeals and general information. This program is sponsored by Kings/Tulare AAA HICAP. Appointments available by calling 623-0199.

Aug. 28 – Internet 101 – 10am-12pm
The Visalia Branch Library will offer a computer class covering basic browser features, Windows basics, searching and website evaluation. To register for the class call 713-2713.

Aug. 28 – Last Thursday Book Club – 6pm
Tulare Public Library Last Thursday Book Club will discuss "The Rosie Project" in the Charter Room. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

Aug. 29 & Sept. 26 – Springville Garden Club – 5:30-6:30pm
A monthly class on gardening is held at The Center, 35621 Hwy 190, in Downtown Springville on the last Friday of each month. Cost for each class is $12. New and experienced gardeners are welcomed. For information call 202-8351.

Aug. 30 – Sci/Fi Book Club – 1pm
Tulare Public Library Sci/Fi Book Club will discuss "Planet of the Apes." For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

Aug. 30 – Mt. Whitney High School 20-Year Reunion
Over 150 people are expected to attend the 20-Year Reunion of Mt. Whitney High School class of 1994 at the Visalia Convention Center.

Sept. 2 – Cancer Caregiver Support Group – 1:30-3pm
This Kaweah Delta Cancer Caregiver Support group meets at Sequoia Regional Cancer Center, 4945 W. Cypress Ave. For information, call 624-3225.

Sept. 4 – Cancer is Dinner Talk – 5:30pm
On the first Thursday of each month, Kaweah Delta Health Care District hosts this support group at Sequoia Regional Cancer Center, 4945 W. Cypress Ave. For information, visit Kaweahdelta.org.

Sept. 4 – Visalia Diabetes Support Group – 5:30-7pm
The Kaweah Delta Health Care District support group meets at Kaweah Delta Multiservice Center, 402 W. Acequia. For information, visit Kaweahdelta.org.

Sept. 4 – Prepared Childbirth Classes – 7pm
The Kaweah Delta Health Care District offers childbirth classes at Kaweah Delta Multiservice Center, 402 W. Acequia. For information, visit Kaweahdelta.org.

Sept. 5-7 – GOATEE IX Retreat
Hume Lake and Iron's Ministry will host 1,000 men at this year's GOATEE IX, (Guys Outdoor Adventure Teaching Eating Encouraging Succeeding). The event is open to churches and the general public. For information, call Outreach Pastor Nick Anthony at 740-4230.

Sept. 5 – First Friday with a Physician – 12–1:30pm
On the First Friday each month, Adventist Medical Center in Hanford hosts a physician seminar series. For information, call 589-2032.

Sept. 6 – Birth Babies & Beyond Fair – 10am-4pm
The Visalia Birth Network and Improving Birth will present this event at Riverway Sports Park for parents and parents-to-be. Shopping, prizes, resources, food, bounce house, music,, face-painting and a TCBF 'Baby Cafe' are featured. For information, visit rallytoimprovebirth.com or visaliabirthnetwork.org.

Sept. 6 & 16 – Young Lives Club - 6:30 - 8pm
The Young Lives Club, a support group for teen moms and dads, meets on the first and third Tuesdays each month at Woodlake Presbyterian, 600 W. Naranjo. Intergenerational games: cards, board games, dominoes and more are featured. For information, call 584-8460.

The San Diego Comic-Con Keeps Getting Bigger and Bigger

Steve Pastis

OK, I'll admit it. I drove down to San Diego last month to spend some time at Comic-Con.

And I will also admit that it wasn't my first time.

That having been said, I felt uneasy about it this year. Maybe it's because I just hit 60 and wondered if I really belong at such an event.

My fears were alleviated, however, when I parked my car in the best spot I could find (ten blocks away) and happened to walk by someone older than me who was dressed up as some sort of superhero villain. (In retrospect, I wonder if she was even aware of Comic-Con.)

Butch Patrick ("Eddie Munster") signs autographs.

The cultural announcements that always come out of Comic-Con – new movies and TV shows, movie trailer premiers, etc. – are always well covered in the national media, so this article won't rehash what its author won't pay to see anyway. This article also won't explore the thoughts one might have as he drives for an hour to find a parking place in the same zip code.

Illustrator Mary Bellamy

To me, Comic-Con is about the wide range of booths and tables in the jam-packed exhibit hall of the San Diego Convention Center, where you can meet artists who go off on their own creative tangents. You can also peruse the most intriguing collection of T-shirts anywhere on the planet.

As you stroll the exhibit hall aisles, you may see a booth full of charming Disney stuffed toys and figurines next to a booth where a porn star with more make-up than The Joker is signing autographs for a line of attendees who all seem to resemble "Comic Book Guy" from the Simpsons.

Comic book conventions throughout the U.S. include celebrities such as TV and movie actors who have tables where they sign photos for fans. You may see Lee Meriwether or the original TV Lois Lane or even the insurance salesman from "Groundhog Day," still cashing in on his 15 minutes of fame.

Butch Patrick, a.k.a. Eddie Munster, seemed to enjoy his participation this year. "'The Munsters' isn't a Comic-Con type of show but I'm getting a good response and having a good time," he said. Since he was pre-occupied with the women who suddenly gathered at his booth, I decided to move on.

One of the biggest changes in recent years is the dramatic increase in the number of booths featuring the work of female writers and cartoonists.

"The culture is more welcoming to women," explained Conjoined Comics writer Carrie Smith. "But it depends on what kind of woman you are. If you're a shyer woman, it may not be a culture you feel comfortable in."

"There's always been women in comics," said comic artist Rachel Duke of Mixtape Comics, who had the neighboring booth. "They were ghost writers. They were just not credited as writers."

The situation is better today than it was, but more progress is needed if you're a cartoonist whose gender happens to be female.

"I can't say how much it affects my getting work," said Duke. "It's easier now to get a job writing comics, but it's harder to get a job writing 'Batman.' You start to have trouble writing the major titles."

Some people bring their kids to Comic-Con.

"They always tell you to turn all the girls into boys, or that there has to be a proportion of boys to girls of 4-1," said illustrator Mary Bellamy. "The girl cannot upstage the boy. She has to be the rival, crazy or the love interest."

The most noticeable change in recent years, however, is how much Comic-Con has grown, which inspires a range of strong opinions among those who have been attending the event for years.

"I like it because it's always successful financially," said cartoonist Rick Geary, who has created graphic novels about such notables as J. Edgar Hoover, Lizzie Borden and Sacco & Venzetti, and books about 19th century crimes including the Lincoln and Garfield assassinations. "It's good to meet my fans face-to-face and rub elbows with my idols."

Bob the Angry Flower

Geary has been attending this annual event since 1976 and commented on its growth. "Sizewise, it's just unmanageable," he said. "It's huge now. I remember the intimate convention room at the El Cortez (Hotel). I think that when Hollywood discovered comics, that's what changed it."

Bob the Angry Flower has been attending Comic-Con since 1997 and keeps coming to maintain his booth location and "sell as many books as I can. There are decades of cartoons I get to see… also pretty girls." But since he is an angry flower, we will move on.

Phil Yeh, president of Cartoonists Across America, the literacy-promoting group he founded in 1985, has been attending Comic-Con since 1970, and had his first table in 1975. He has created murals about literacy in 49 states and 15 foreign counties. He attends Comic-Con to make contacts that could lead to projects with schools, libraries and book festivals around the world.

Yeh is more than willing to share his opinions about Comic-Con's evolution from a comic book gathering to a huge pop culture event. "The majority of people at the Comic-Con today don't read comic books," he said. "I don't think they read at all."

Greg Evans, the creator of the comic strip "Luann," was in the National Cartoonist Society booth "mostly to meet fans." He remembers the 1985 Comic-Con "with 12 guys and their card tables. Then Hollywood discovered this thing 10 years ago."

So is Comic-Con better now or the way it was?

"The purists will say it's worse," said Evans. "The San Diego Chamber of Commerce will say it's better."

Calligraphy

Continued from p. 17

Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, University of Richmond; the Birmingham Museum of Art; the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University; and the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens.

In East Asia, calligraphy has been hailed as the highest of all art forms for more than 15 centuries. It's not hard to understand why; with more than 80,000 Chinese characters and infinite graphic variations, the expressive potential is unlimited. The results, as seen in "33 Dances," speak for themselves. From hanging scrolls to hand scrolls, albums to folding screens, each work is a unique expression of the artist's personality and offers a glimpse into the culture that held calligraphy in such high esteem.

The works exemplify the variety of scripts possible with Chinese characters: seal script (tensho), clerical script (reisho), standard script (kaisho), running script (gyosho), and cursive script (sosho). Calligraphy's emphasis on movement and timing suggests dancing, and each script has its own rhythm, from the formal strictness of seal script to the wild dance of cursive writing.

Gallery hours are 12:30-5pm Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is $5 for adults, $3 for students with valid ID. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Weekly docent tours are held Saturdays at 1 pm.

For more information, visit www.ccjac.org or call 582-4915

Frampton

Continued from p. 17

Frampton was selected to headline this year's event because of his "proven track record," Stillwater explained. "He sold out the Fox Theatre in 2006."

On July 30th, co-headliner Buddy Guy turned 78 but still has the chops to garner the attention of younger audiences. Eric Clapton once described Guy as the best guitar player alive. In fact, it's been through the support of his many famous and respected admirers that blues master Guy has come to the attention of rock audiences, from touring with the Rolling Stones in 1970, to soliciting guest appearances from Clapton, Jeff Beck and Mark Knopfler.

With hits like "These Eyes," "American Woman" and "Takin' Care of Business," Randy Bachman has become a legendary figure in the rock n' roll world through his talents as a guitarist, songwriter, performer and producer. He has earned over 120 gold and platinum album/singles awards around the world for performing and producing. His songwriting has garnered him the coveted #1 spot on radio playlists in over 20 countries and he has amassed over 40 million records sold.

"A lot of people are excited about Peter Frampton and a lot of people are excited by Buddy Guy," Stillwater said, noting that the two are Grammy winners, and along with Bachman, are members of the Musicians Hall of Fame. "In fact, the three were inducted at the same time."

Concertgoers will be entering through the crosswalk entrance, since the park will be enclosed with a black screen fence. Security will be provided by the Pipkin Detective Agency, one of the event sponsors. "We worked out a special rate for them as we feel the city needs to come together to do what we can to help with transient issue facing our community," said Rocky Pipkin, the agency's president and managing partner.

The event has many other local sponsors, the main three being Schuil & Associates, Pine Pedroncelli & Aguilar, Inc., and Financial Credit Network.

Tickets are $60 and only 2,000 tickets will be sold, according to Stillwater. For tickets, or for parking, trolley or other information about this event, which benefits the Visalia Rescue Mission, call 627-OVAL or visit ovalpark.org.

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In 2011, the City of Visalia recruited the Visalia Rescue Mission to revitalize the Park and the surrounding neighborhood. There has never been such a concerted effort to change the dynamic of this park, to attract blossoming businesses, and to provide a safe and comfortable environment for the whole community.

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